



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume I: Orders
Part I



by
Richard K. Lussier, Dr. P.H.





Table of Contents

Part I

Introduction.....	3
Order of the Golden Fleece (1431-)	4
Order of the Golden Fleece, Collar (1431-)	29
Order of the Golden Fleece, Order Heralds Collar (1431-).....	40
Order of the Golden Fleece, Decoration of the Roy d'armes (1431-).....	43
Military Maria Theresia Order (1757-1931)	46
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan (1764-1931)	82
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan , Collar (1764-1931).....	132

Part II

Austrian Imperial Leopold Order (1808-1919)	141
Austrian Imperial Leopold Order, Collar (1808-1919).....	233
Austrian Imperial Leopold Order, Officials Medal (1808-1919).....	242

Part III

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (1816-1918)	250
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Collar (1816-1918)	337
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Officials Medal (1816-1918)	346
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Military Merit Medal (1816).....	349

Part IV

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order (1849-1919).....	353
The High Nobles Star Cross Order (1668-Present)	436
Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order (1898-1918)	450





Introduction

This volume contains a description and analysis of the orders of knighthood within the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empire. This section will only include orders sanctioned and issued by the Hapsburg Emperor as imperial orders or orders issued by the Austrian or Austro-Hungarian imperial government. Those orders issued by entities other than the Emperor or central Austrian or Austro-Hungarian governments are to be found in the volume of this work dedicated to semi-official awards. The material covered in this volume will include all of the imperial Austrian and Austro-Hungarian orders issued from 1848 until the fall of the empire in 1918 regardless of when the orders were founded.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Date Issued: The first award of the Order of the Golden Fleece occurred on November 27, 1431 and continues to be issued to the present day. This order was established by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy and Bruges on, January 7, 1430 on the occasion of his marriage to the Infanta Isabella of Portugal. The order passed to the house of Habsburg in 1477 with the marriage of Maria of Burgundy to Maximilian Archduke of Austria.

Reason Issued: The order was originally created by Philip the Good Duke of Burgundy to accomplish two goals. The first was to create an order that would preclude his having to accept membership in any of the other orders of the time. The reason for this was that when one became a member of an order one had to swear allegiance to the order chancellor and thus become a liege man of the sovereign of the order. Philip the Good wishing to preserve his independence while not insulting a powerful European leader by declining an offer of membership in that leaders order, created the order of the Golden Fleece, in part so that he would not be eligible for membership in other orders. In addition the order was created to bind its members to him thus forming powerful alliances in support of his reign. Later after the order passed to the Habsburgs as a result of the marriage of Maria of Burgundy to Maximilian of Austria it became the house order and highest order of the Habsburg dynasty. It was rarely awarded to any other than reigning monarchs and the highest nobility. Recipients outranked all nobility except princes of the royal blood. The crown prince received the order at birth while Archdukes received it, with the approval of the Emperor, upon reaching their majority.

Classes or Types: The order came in one class, knight





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Interesting Facts:

- The Order of the Golden Fleece is the forth oldest secular order of knighthood
- The first meeting of the order chapter was held in Ryssel (Lille) on November 27, 1431
- Pope Eugene IV confirmed the order in 1433, it was reconfirmed in 1516 by Pope Leo XI
- The Chancellors of the order during the imperial era were the Emperors of Austria, The Sovereigns of the order were: Philip, the Good; Charles the Bold; Maximilian I; Philip I; Karl V; Philip II; Philip III; Philip IV; Karl II; Karl VI; Franz I; Joseph II; Leopold II; Franz II; Ferdinand I; Franz Joseph I and Karl I.
- Women were not allowed to be the sovereign of the order
- The marriage of Maria of Burgundy to Maximilian of Austria resulted in the order becoming Austrian
- The order was divided into Spanish and Austrian branches in 1712
- The award was to be returned to the order chancellery upon the death of the holder.
- Only Catholic nobles were officially eligible to receive the award. The only protestant to receive the award was King George IV of England. This award had to be sanctioned by the Pope
- Recipients were exempt from all taxes.
- Recipients were exempt from all legal action without the Emperor's permission.
- There have been instances in which the award of the order has been revoked.
- The knight's badge was instituted in the eighteenth century. Prior to that the order badge was worn on a collar, chain or ribbon about the neck.
- The annual festival of the order is celebrated in Vienna on November 30, its patron, St. Andrew's, Day.
- The chapter meeting day is on January 6.
- Until 1800 recipients of this order were not allowed to wear any other order insignia
- When armor was worn the fleece was often engraved upon the armor itself.
- French is the official language of the order
- Clergy, members of the Teutonic Order, and members of the Order of the Knights of Malta (until 1792) who had taken religious vows were not allowed to be members of this order.
- There were 52 persons who received the Order of the Golden Fleece and some class of the Order of Maria Theresia.
- The order motto was **AUTRE n AURAY**: I will wear no other
- The first order to be granted by Franz Joseph was to Field Marshal Joseph Count Radetzky von Radetz
- There were only eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross, the Elisabeth Order and the Civil Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Hallmarks: All elements of the insignia are hallmarked.

- Vienna Assay Office Mark
- 1872-1922 750 fine gold hallmark
- Rothe hallmark in diamond
- Mark of Gebrüder Resch (1873)

Design: From 1430 until circa 1519 a gold badge in the form of a fleece was worn on a collar or on a gold chain as a sign of membership in the order. In 1519 Charles the V authorized the badge to be worn on a red or black cord or 5 centimeter wide ribbon. In the 18th century (circa 1700) a knight's badge composed of three parts: a flint, steel and flames, and a fleece badge was worn by recipients of the order. When it was introduced it was worn on a red ribbon. Thereafter the wearing of the collar occurred only on formal occasions.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Design continued: A gold three-part badge. From top to bottom, the badge is composed of an ornate B for Burgundy shaped firestone plaque with a motto ribbon and an allegorical scene of Jason and the Argonauts, The middle portion is composed of a black and white flecked flint with flames emitting from it, and the lower section is a golden fleece in profile. The upper segment of the badge has a ring at a right angle to the badge for attaching the badge to the neck ribbon. The fleece on the badge represents the reward at the end of a just life. The flames represent the breath of the dragon, which guards the fleece, and symbolizes the purifying effect of passing through life's trials.

Obverse: A gold three-part badge. From top to bottom, the badge is composed of an ornate fire-steel in the shape of the letter B for Burgundy with a blue enameled motto ribbon on which is inscribed, in gold, **PRE-TIVM/ LABORVM/ NON VILE** (No Mean Reward for Labors). This is the motto of the House of Burgundy. In the middle of the handle of the fire-steel is an ornamental garland of laurel leaves. On the lower portion of the fire-steel is a scene, from Jason and the Argonauts, in which Jason slays the dragon. At the top of the fire-steel is a knob or rosette which is supposed to be a sea shell (an early symbol of Christianity) to which is attached a ring. The ring is at a ninety-degree angle to the badge.

The middle portion of the badge is composed of a black enameled fire stone (flint) with white drop shaped dots. Fan shaped flames emit from each side of the fire stone (flint). These flames are red enamel and have gold lines separating the flames. The flames are sometimes convex. At the top and bottom of the fire stone (flint) is a chased wedge shaped eye. The upper eye attaches the flint to the stylized plaque of the fire steel and the lower to the fleece.



The lower section is composed of a belted golden fleece (38X32 mm) in profile facing to the heraldic right (viewers left).





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse: A gold three part badge. From top to bottom the badge is composed at the top of an ornate fire steel in the shape of the letter B for Burgundy with a blue enameled motto ribbon on which is inscribed, in gold, **NON ALVD** (No Other). In the middle of the handle of the fire-steel is an ornamental garland of laurel leaves. On the lower portion of the fire-steel is a scene of the battle between Gideon and the Midianites.



The middle portion of the badge is composed of a black enameled fire stone (flint) with white drop shaped dots. Fan shaped flames emit from each side of the fire stone (flint). These flames are red enamel and have gold lines separating the flames. The flames are sometimes concave. At the top and bottom of the fire stone (flint) is a chased wedge shaped eye. The upper eye attaches the flint to the stylized plaque of the fire stone and the lower to the fleece.

The lower section of the badge is composed of a belted golden fleece in profile facing to the heraldic left (viewers right).





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Prince von Furstenberg jeweled Fleece

Weight: 70 - 150 grams

Size:

- The badge: 100 - 112 mm high and 38 - 70 mm wide.
- The fleece is 38 X 32 mm, the flames are 30 X 70 mm, and the gold clasp is 38 X 38 mm.

Type of Material: Gold, silver or bronze gilt and enamel, or gold and jewels

Variations: As would be expected of an insignia that has been manufactured for such a long time, there are a number of variations of this award. Some noteworthy examples are described below

- Badges with the fleece in profile are pre 1860 and those with the head turned so that both eyes and horns are visible are post 1860
- Fleece badges with a ball suspension eye date from 1850 and later, those with wedge shaped suspension loops were made during the entire time the badge was issued, Fleece badges with ball shaped suspension loops are for wearing with a chain or ribbon but not as part of the knights badge or collar.
- Badges were issued in jeweled versions. The flames are composed of diamonds while the fire-stone is of rubies. The fleece is sometimes decorated with jewels. Two brooches each also composed of diamonds and rubies support this part of the badge. Eight Jeweled Fleece insignia were owned by the Imperial family at the end of WWI.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

The Wittelsbach fleece was a famous jeweled version of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Louis XV had a jeweled Fleece insignia incorporating a large blue diamond, the French Blue, now believed to be the Hope Diamond.



Furstenberg jeweled Fleece



Circa 1760 Fleece of Maximillian II of Bavaria

Image attributed to the Schatzkammer



Circa 1765 Fleece of Maximillian II of Bavaria

Image attributed to the Royal Residence Munich



Circa 1890 jeweled Fleece badge of Duke Robert of Parma





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



An unusual jeweled Order of the Golden Fleece badge previously belonging to the Grand Duke of Tuscany (137X77 mm).

Image form the Spada Collection





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



An unusual Order of the Golden Fleece badge from 1628. It is 3cm tall and 2cm wide and is composed of a large pearl, gold, silver, diamonds and emerald.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Fleece badge attributed to Karl Ficquelmount
Austrian Foreign Minister in 1848

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer:

- Martin Biennais of Paris between 1815 and 1830
- Gebrüder Resch (circa 1873)
- Rothe and Neffe after WWI.

Number Issued: From 1430 until 1800 those receiving this order were not allowed to wear any other order insignia. Fifty-one persons are allowed to hold the order at any one time. Originally this number had been 24 but was increased to 31 in 1430. The number became 51 in 1516 under Charles V then rose to 61 under Phillip II before returning 51. Clergy, members of the Teutonic Order, and members of the Order of the Knights of Malta who had taken religious vows were not allowed to be members of this order until 1792. The crown princes of Austria received the order at birth. All other eligible members of the royal family received the order, with the approval of the emperor, upon reaching their majority. Persons on whom the order was conferred could be removed if good cause was thought to exist. The first person expelled from the order was Jehan de Bourgogne: Count d'Estampes, Seigneur de Dourdain, First Duke of Navarre for heresy. There were 52 persons who received the order of the Golden Fleece and some class of the Order of Maria Theresia. There had been, by the fall of the Austrian empire in 1918, 1,197 persons designated as knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece. The last awards made during the empire were the 6 awarded in 1918 to Graf Miklos Moric Esterhazy von Galantha, Vincent Zdenko, Prince Lobkowitz, Count Henri von Clam-Martinic, Count Charles von Kuefstein, Graf Joseph Von Hunyady and Graf Etienne Burian de Rapecz.

Order of Precedence: Number 1, preceding the Order of Maria Theresia Grand Cross





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Case:

- Type I: A maroon velvet case with a gold coat of arms on the lid. The interior design is not known





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Case (continued):

- Type II: A red leather case with a gold coat of arms on the lid. The interior of the lid is white silk with the maker's logo in gold (Rothe). The inner liner of the bottom of the case is fitted in white plush. The bottom of the case is black.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Case (continued):

- Type III: A red leather case with a gold coat of arms on the lid. The interior of the lid is white silk with the maker's logo in gold. The inner liner of the bottom of the case is fitted in maroon plush. The bottom of the case is black.



Image attributed to Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Ribbon: The fleece badge was originally worn on a collar or gold chain. The use of a 5 centimeters wide bright red ribbon was authorized by Charles V circa 1519. Beginning in the early sixteenth century under Charles V, and by his decree, the Fleece alone was usually worn on ordinary occasions, suspended by a thin red ribbon, but sometimes on one in black. Phillip II of Spain favored black, perhaps originally as a sign of mourning. In its final form the ribbon is 35 mm wide and. It was authorized to be worn around the neck or in the first buttonhole of the uniform.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Attachments: On the ribbon is a fire-steel brooch in gold and blue enamel which was called a coulant. This slide is 33 X 30 mm. There are a number of variations on this part of the order including jeweled versions. (See some examples below)



Miniature: There are a wide verity of miniatures of this order including jeweled versions

- Some miniatures were produced by Rothe (circa 1900)
- The miniatures with diamonds are 21 to 32 mm X 15 to 21 mm and weigh 3.9 to 5.8 grams



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Cased miniature of the Order of the Golden Fleece on a miniature collar





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum

Notable Recipients:

- Philip III, Duke of Burgundy, founder of the Order, 1430
- Edward IV, King of England, 1468
- Archduke Maximilian I of Austria, 1478
- Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor, 1491
- Henry VII, King of England, 1491
- Henry Prince of Wales, later Henry VIII, King of England, 1505
- Francis I, King of France, 1515
- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Later Holy Roman Emperor, 1515
- Louise II, King of Hungary and Bohemia, 1515
- Christian II, King of Norway, Denmark and Sweden, 1519
- James V, King of the Scots, 1531
- Andrea Doria, First Prince of Melfi, 1531
- Philip of Austria, Prince of Asturias, later Philip II of Spain, 1531
- Archduke Maximilian of Austria, later Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, 1546
- Cosimo I de' Medici, Duke of Florence, 1546
- Ottavio Farnese, Duke of Parma, 1546
- William I, Prince of Orange, 1555
- Francis II, King of France, 1560
- Charles IX, King of France, 1565
- Don John of Austria, victor of Lepanto, 1566
- Alonso Perez de Guzman El Bueno, 7th Duke of Medina Sidonia, Commander of the Armada, 1581
- Don Philip, Duke of Asturias, later Philip III of Spain, 1583
- Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1585
- Archduke Matthias of Austria, Later Holy Roman Emperor, 1596
- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Later Holy Roman Emperor, 1596
- Sigismund III, King of Poland, 1600
- Philip Prince of Asturias, later Philip IV of Spain, 1613
- Archibald Campbell, 7th Earl of Argyll, 1624
- Honore I, Prince of Monaco, 1624
- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Later Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand III, 1624
- Albrecht Von Wallenstein, Duke of Friedland, 1628
- Otto Heinrich Fugger, Count of Kirchberg, 1628
- Nicholas Count Esterhazy de Galantha, 1628
- John II Casimir of Poland, 1638
- Ferdinand IV, King of Hungary and Bohemia, 1650
- Archduke Leopold I of Austria, later Emperor Leopold I of Austria, 1654





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum

Notable Recipients continued:

- Charles II King of Spain, 1665
- Archduke Joseph of Austria, Later Emperor Joseph I, 1687
- Eugene, Prince of Savoy, 1687
- Archduke Charles of Austria, Later Emperor Charles VI, 1697
- Charles Albert of Bavaria, later Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI, 1715
- Sigismund Frederick, Count of Khevenhuller, 1721
- Claude Lamoral Prince de Ligne, 1721
- Francis I, Prince hereditary of Lorraine, later Emperor Francis I, 1723
- Archduke Josephs of Austria, Later Emperor Joseph II, 1741
- Leopold Count Daun, 1753
- Archduke Peter Leopold of Austria, Later Emperor Leopold II, 1755
- Maximilian Ulysses, Reichsgraf von Brown, Baron de Camus and Mountany, 1757
- Freidrich Wilhelm, Count of Haugwitz, 1759
- Nicholas Count of Esterhazy, 1763
- Nicholas Prince Esterhazy, 1765
- Archduke Francis Joseph of Austria, Later Emperor Francis II, 1768
- Francis Maurice, Count of Lacy, 1770
- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Later Emperor Ferdinand I, 1793
- Karl, Prince of Schwarzenberg, 1809
- Klemens Wenzel, Prince Metternich, 1810
- George Prince of Wales, later George IV of England, 1814
- Ludwig I, King of Bavaria, 1825
- Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, later King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia and Italy, 1841
- Joseph Count of Radetzky von Radetz, 1849
- Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria, Later Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico, 1852
- Leopold Crown Prince of Belgium, Later King Leopold II of the Belgians, 1853
- Archduke Rudolf of Austria, Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia, 1858
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the Austrian throne, 1878
- Archduke Eugen of Austria, 1878
- Archduke Charles of Austria, Later Emperor Charles I of Austria and King Charles IV of Hungary, 1905
- Archduke Otto of Austria, Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia, 1916
- Archduke Karl of Austria, Sovereign of the Order of the Golden Fleece 1961





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Charles V von Habsburg
Wearing the Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece on a gold chain
He later authorized it to be worn on a red ribbon





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Charles V von Habsburg
Wearing the Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece on a narrow red ribbon
Which he had authorized





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Field Marshall Joseph Count Redetsky
Wearing the Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece without slide
(This was the first Order of the Golden Fleece presented by Emperor Franz Joseph)





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Eduard Count Clam-Gallas, General of Cavalry
Wearing the Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece with slide





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Maximilian Von Habsburg
Wearing the badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece in the button hole of his tunic





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Joseph II Von Habsburg
Wearing a jeweled Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece, Collar
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies, Kollane)

Date Issued: From 1430 until the present.

Reason Issued: The order was dedicated to the glory of god, the defense of the Christian religion, the honor of the Virgin Mary, the holy apostle Andrew, the patron saint of Burgundy, to increase and inspire knightly honor. The introductory words of the order statutes indicate the importance in which the foundation of the order was held. The statutes stated that only those who could prove nobility according to his name and code of arms, and who were without fear or blame could aspire to this order of knighthood, "and we announce that in order to express our boundless love which we cherish in our heart for knighthood, and the order of knights, who's honor and prosperity is dear to us and which we wish to further, that we create this order for the defense of the true catholic faith, to honor our mother the holy church as well as the state and its institutions. In order to protect it we create this order which we will call "the Order of the Golden fleece." The order was granted as a sign of the highest honor from the House of Habsburg

Classes or Types: The collar came in only one type





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Philip III, Duke of Burgundy 1419-1467

Image attributed to the Wikipedia

Interesting Facts:

- The award of the order on a collar was established with the award of the Order of the Golden Fleece by Philip III, Duke of Burgundy in 1430.
- The collar was to be returned to the order chancellery upon the death of the holder of the award
- The Emperor Franz Joseph I hung his collar of the order over the cradle of his son, Crown Prince Rudolph, while the bells were tolling to announce his birth.

Hallmarks:

- The collar is hallmarked on every link and on the clasp
- All collars are numbered





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Fire Stone



Fire Steel



Central Link



Image attributed to Kituntetsek, Agnes Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi

Design: The obverse of the twenty-eight fire stones are slightly oval in form, black enameled and covered with white flames or dropped shaped spots; the edges are decorated with short, small gold flames which taper at the edges which are enhanced with small metallic balls. The stones alternate with twenty-eight connected, golden fire steels for a total of 56 links not including the clasp. The central link of the collar on which the fleece is suspended has a different shape than the already described fire stones. The fire stone is round but the flames form a triangle. It also has a loop at the bottom to attach the fleece badge. The fleece itself is three dimensional in gold and has the head turned to the heraldic right (viewers left). The fleece is belted in the middle and with the aid of a loop on its back is connected to the collar.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Image from Pinterest

Obverse: A chain formed by 56-61 links: In the 56 link version there are twenty-eight fire stones, which are slightly oval in form, black or blue enameled and covered with white flames or dropped shaped spots; the edges of the fire stones are decorated with short, small flames which taper at the edges and which have small balls at their tips. The fire stones alternate with twenty-eight connected, golden fire steels. The central link of the collar on which the fleece is suspended has a different shape than the already described fire stones. The fire stone is round but the flames form a rhombus. The clasp of the fleece collar is also of a different shape being square with a round fire stone and a squared clasp to attach it to the hinge on the last link of the opposite side of the collar. The fleece itself is three dimensional in gold and has the head turned to the heraldic right (viewers left). The fleece is belted in the middle and with the aid of a loop connected to the collar. The length of this collar is between 118 and 120 cm. The individual links are connected with each other with rings. There are some details in the modeling of the fleece or the fire steel which have stylistic differences depending on the era in which the collar was created.

Reverse: Unknown

Weight: Between 89 and 122 ducats, (311.5 to 427 grams)





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Fleece Ruby Collar Circa 1636-1872

Size: Collars are usually 110 to 125 cm in length.

Type of Material:

- Gold, silver, bronze gilt and enamel
- Gold and jewel's

Variations:

- A smaller example is known that was made in 1741 and is composed of 54 links and is 81 centimeters in length. This collar was made for the Crown Prince Joseph, later Emperor Joseph II. This was also used by Franz II, the Crown Prince Rudolph and the Grand Duke Otto of Austria.
 - Jeweled versions of the collars are known to exist, one of which is the so called “ruby collar” see above
 - Collars composed of 61 links were produced by Rothe between 1876 and 1887

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Jeweled Collar and Badge Attributed to Ferdinand Schwarzenberg Circa 1700

Designer/manufacturer:

- Jean Peutin in Brugge, made the first twenty four collars
- Biennais of Paris
- Alexander Emanuel Kochert
- Rothe and Neffe in Vienna made collars from the 17th century through the reign of Franz Joseph I and make all the current insignia for the order.

Number Issued:

- 24 collars were created in 1431
- 61 collars were issued at any one time between 1516 and 1559
- 51 collars were issued at any one time during the empire
- Collars numbered 1-89 were recorded in the 18th century.
- 75 collars exist at this time

Order of Precedence: Number one, preceding the Order of Maria Theresia

Case: A black leather fitted case with a white lid interior which often has the maker's logo.

Ribbon: None.

Attachments: None





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Miniature: There are collar miniatures in the form of miniature chains similar to those for the Order of Franz Joseph. They are known to have been made by Rothe and Vincent Mayer and sons of Vienna. The one illustrated here was made by Vincent Mayer and sons





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)

(Orden del Toisón de Oro)

Notable Recipients: See Pages 20 and 21.

Award Document:

Order of the Golden Fleece Award Document to Ernest Baron Weber De Benhof





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Maximillian I von Habsburg
Wearing armor with the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece engraved up-on it





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Franz Joseph I von Habsburg
Wearing the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Franz I von Habsburg
Wearing the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece, Herald's Collar
(Der Ritterorden von Golden Vlies, Ordenherolds Wappenkette)

Date Issued: Circa 1517

Reason Issued: To signify the position of the Order Herald in the administrative hierarchy of the order. It was worn by the Order Herald on all formal occasions.

Classes or Types: The collar came in only one type

Interesting Facts:

- This insignia was also called the “Potence”, (Chain of arms)
- The plaques on the collar represent the code of arms of the order members circa 1550.
- The plaques on the collar were to be changed to always represent the existing order members. However this was not done and the plaques on the collar are still those of the members during the reign of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor

Hallmarks: Unknown

Design: A collar of three strands; the lower strand is a representation of the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece; the two upper strands of the collar are composed of flat rectangular plaques containing coats of arms of the members of the order.





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Obverse: The collar is composed of 52 flat rectangular links in three strands. The lower level is composed of flames and flints. The two upper levels are composed of enameled rectangular plaques on which are engraved the coats of arms of the knights of the order at the time of Karl V circa 1519. The lower center link has the coat of arms of Charles V. Attached to the collar is a fleece badge suspended from two links.

Reverse: Unknown

Weight: Unknown

Size:

- Outer circumference is 143 cm
- Inner circumference is 98.8 cm
- Width 10.3 cm

Type of Material: Gold and enamel

Variations: None

Designer/manufacturer: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Heralds Collar

Image attributed to the Schatzkammer

Number Issued: One
Order of Precedence: Not applicable
Case: Unknown
Ribbon: None.
Attachments: None
Miniature: None
Notable Recipients: Unknown
Award Document: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece, Decoration of the Order Herald

(Der Ritterorden von Golden Vlies, Ehrenzeichen des Ordenherolds)

Date Issued: 1560

Reason Issued: To signify the position of the Order Roy d'armes (King of arms) in the administrative hierarchy of the order. It was worn by the Roy d'armes on all formal occasions not calling for the wearing of the Herald's Collar.

Classes or Types: The badge came in only one type

Interesting Facts:

- This badge was also called the "Email"
- The badge was created during the reign of Phillip II of Spain to replace the wearing of the Herald's Collar.
- The Roy d'armes in 1918 was the imperial Cabinet Secretary Ernst Freiherr von Ebenhof.

Hallmarks: None

Design: An oval shaped badge gold and enamel with the fleece insignia suspended below it





Orders of Knighthood

The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece

(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Obverse: The center of the badge is in the form of a Spanish heraldic shield on which is the coat of arms of King Phillip II of Spain. Around the lower edge of this shield is a stylized collar of the Golden Fleece in gold. At the top of the badge is the Spanish royal crown. The bonnet of the crown is in red enamel and the crown has enameled jewels. The orb of the crown has a ring passing through it to attach it to the chain or ribbon from which it is suspended. At the bottom of the badge is a large ring to which is attached the badge of the Golden Fleece.





Orders of Knighthood
The Knights Order of the Golden Fleece
(Der Ritterorden vom Golden Vlies)
(Orden del Toisón de Oro)



Picture attributed to Österreichisches
Ordenshandbuch, Roman Freiherr von
Prochazka

Reverse:

- The reverse of the badge is plain gold except for the engraved motto: **NEC SPE NEC METU** (Neither Hope Nor Fear): The motto of Phillip II.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 70 X 32 mm in size

Type of Material: Gold and enamel

Variations: None

Designer/manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: One

Order of Precedence: Not applicable

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: The red neck ribbon is 35 mm wide.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None

Notable Recipients: Unknown

Award Document: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

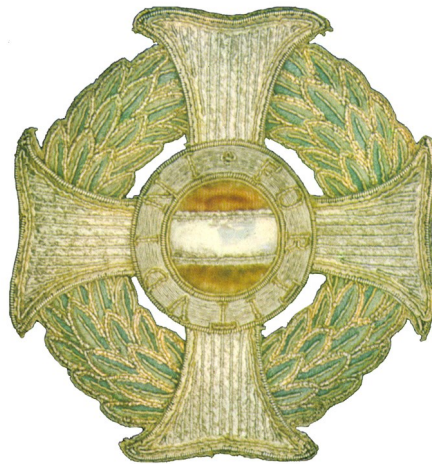


Image attributed to Orders & Decorations , Vaclav Mericka

Date Issued: Empress Maria Theresa founded this order on June 18, 1757 (the day of the Austrian victory over Prussia and Frederick the Great at the Battle of Kolin) and authorized the first awards on June 22, 1757. The order continued to be issued by the Heller Commission until October 3, 1931 (for services rendered in WWI). The order ceased to exist in 1986 with the death of the last recipient the former Lineinschiffsleutnant: Gottfried Freiherr von Banfield

Reason Issued: The order was issued to honor commissioned officers who exhibited valor and exceptional bravery in combat or in the case of the grand cross, those who made extraordinary decisions which resulted in an important military outcome. It was rarely awarded to foreigners. The class of this order, which was received, was often determined by the status of the recipient.

- **Classes or Types:** This order was issued in three classes: Grand Cross, (Grand Cross badge on grand cordon with star); Commander, (neck badge), and Knight (breast badge). The order came in two classes until October 15, 1765 when a new class, that of Commander was introduced by Grandmaster and Emperor Joseph II. Grand Cross: (1757-1765), Grand Cross with star (1765-1918) awarded to Generals commanding armies for winning a battle or campaign
- Commander: (1765-1918) awarded to Generals and members of the General Staff
- Knight (1757-1931) awarded to officers of all ranks for outstanding acts of bravery.

Interesting Facts:

- Duke Charles of Lorraine received the first award of the order and Count Leopold Dunn the victor at Kolin who had proposed the creation of the order in 1749 was the second recipient of the order in the form of a grand cross.
- The first Chancellor of the order was Wenzel, Prince of Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794).
- The Grand Master of the order was the Emperor of Austria.
- Kaiser Franz I was the first Grand Master of the order in 1758.
- The order had a special uniform for each class of recipient.
- The order festival day is October 15: St. Theresa Day.
- After March 8, 1895 grand cross holders were ennobled as Barons of Austria and Baronets of Hungary.
- There were only eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross, the Elisabeth Order and the Civil Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Interesting Facts continued:

- Two persons received the Maria Theresa Order and the German Knights Cross of the Iron Cross. They were Oberleutnant Friedrich Franek and Oberleutnant Alois Windisch.
- The anniversary of Austria's greatest victory over Frederick the Great of Prussia at the Battle of Kolin, June 18, 1757 was declared to be the anniversary date of the order. The first awards were made to those who had distinguished themselves in this battle on March 7, 1758 when 4 grand crosses and 14 knight's badges were awarded
- Holders of this award were allowed to place the insignia on their coat of arms.
- The award was to be returned to the order chancellery upon the death of the recipient (foreign recipients were exempted from this rule). However the recipient was, with the permission of the order, allowed to have insignia made that could be retained by the family.
- Potential recipients of this award had to personally request that they be considered to receive it.
- Habsburg subjects who were recipients of the award were granted an annual pension as follows:
 - ◊ Grand Cross recipients: 1,500 gulden, after 1810 = 800 gulden, after 1878, 3,000 gulden and 6,000 kronen after 1910
 - ◊ Commanders: 600 gulden, after 1810 = 800 gulden, 1,500 gulden after 1878 and 4,000 kronen after 1910
 - ◊ Knights of the second rank: 400 gulden, Knights of the first rank 600 gulden, and 2,400 kronen after 1910
- The emperor set aside 150,000 gulden to support the pensions cited above.
- The highest number of living recipients was attained in 1815 with 340 members from the empire and 127 foreigners holding the order
- The Grand Cross of this order and the Order of the Golden Fleece were always worn by the Emperor when in military uniform except when he was in Hungary. When in the Kingdom of Hungary the Emperor wore the Order of St. Stephan instead of the Order of Maria Theresia.
- This award was given to the Duke of Wellington in 1814.
- In Maria Theresa's reign almost one-third of the holders of the Knights Cross of the order were non-nobles
- Three persons who had been awarded the order either declined it or returned it. They were: General-Feldwachtmeister Josef Gribauval, Feldmarschall Wenzel Josef Count Colloredo-Wallsee and General-leutnant Duke Karl von Lothringen
- 14 persons who had received the order were temporary (5) or permanently (9) expelled from the order
 - 87 persons received the knight and commander badge of the order
 - Awards with the engraved name of the recipient, recipients in the case of awards passed from one notable person to another or an engraved sentiment from the recipients peers intended to honor him are known to exist.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Interesting Facts continued:

- There were nine officers who received all three classes of this award during their military career.
 1. Feldmarschall Joseph Freiherr von Alvintzy de Berberek, Knight 1779, Commander 1793, Grand Cross 1794
 2. Feldzeugmeister Johann Peter Freiherr von Beaulieu de Marconnay, Knight 1760, Commander 1790, Grand Cross 1794
 3. Feldmarschall Joseph Johann Graf Ferraris, Knight 1758, Commander 1793, Grand Cross 1793
 4. Feldzeugmeister Friedrich Wilhelm Furst Hohenlohe-Kirchberg, Knight 1760, Commander 1789, Grand Cross 1792
 5. Feldzeugmeister Maximilian Graf Baillet de Latour, Knight 1790, Commander 1794, Grand Cross 1809
 6. Feldmarschall Johann Joseph Furst Liechtenstein, Knight 1790, Commander 1796, Grand Cross 1799
 7. Feldmarschall Carl Clemens Pellegrini, Knight 1757, Commander 1765, Grand Cross 1789
 8. Feldmarschall Josef Graf Radetzky von Radetz, Knight 1799, Commander 1809, Grand Cross 1848
 9. Feldmarschall Karl Schwarzenberg, Knight 1794, Commander 1805, Grand Cross 1813
- The Knight's Cross was awarded in 1800 to 8 British officers who had distinguished themselves at Villiers-en-Couche in 1794.
- The last grand cross of the nineteenth century was given to Field Marshal Archduke Albrecht on August 29, 1866 for his victory in the battle at Custozza.
- There were 52 persons who received the Order of the Golden Fleece and some class of the Order of Maria Theresia.
- With the death of General der Infantry Baron Geza Fejervary de Kamloskeresztes there were no living members of the order at the outbreak of World War I in 1914.
- The awards were officially presented at a ceremony known as a "Promotion". There were 195 of these ceremonies. The 1st Promotion occurred on the 7th March 1758 and the last on the 3rd October 1931. During World War I Promotions Number 171 on the 27th August 1914 to Promotion Number 185 on the 2nd October 1918 took place. A further ten Promotions took place after the war granting awards retroactively for war service.
- The award could be made posthumously as in the case of Feldmarschall Boroevic von Bojna in 1931
 - In 1932 the Hungarian order chancellery split off from the Austrian chancellery. In 1944 the Hungarian Regent, Nikolaus Horthy of Nagybanya issued one knights cross of the order under his dubious authority as Hungarian order chancellor to Oberst/Generalmajor Ladislaus Oszlanyi.
 - The Hungarian chancellery was terminated in 1945





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Maria Theresa Grand Cross Star worn by Emperor Franz Joseph
Image attributed to Pinterest

Interesting Facts continued:

- Feldmarschall Svetozar Borojevic von Bojna is the only person to receive a higher grade of the order (Commander) before receiving the lower grade (Knight).
- By statute, adopted in 1758, the Order could not be awarded to foreigners, but after December 31, 1799 when the award was given to several Russian officers this rule was no longer observed. For example, holders of the Order were the Russian Emperor Alexander I, German Emperor Wilhelm II, Field Marshal Von Moltke, Prince Bagration and the Duke of Wellington, as well as many other famous non-Austrian generals.
- Widows received half their spouse's pension for life. The last pension was paid out in May 1914
- Fregattenleutnant Gottfried Freiherr von Banfield was the only WWI ace to receive this award. He received the knights cross in 1917. He was also the last living recipient of the order, dying in 1986. His death extinguished the order
- The Military Maria Theresa Order was exempted from the rules requiring insignia to be made using base metals in 1917. Thus even in this period the order continued to be made of gold and silver.
- The officers of the order were Grand Master (The Emperor), Chancellor of the Order (A high ranking recipient), Tresorier (Treasurer) and Greffier (Secretary).

Hallmarks (Pre 1867 order were not retroactively hallmarked):

- Mark of C.F. Rothe
- Mark of Johann Schachtel of Prague
- Mark of Ignaz Schmidt of Vienna (circa 1801)
- Mark of Johann Michael von Grosser
- Mark of Vincent Mayer's Sons
- After 1867 Gold and Silver fineness marks
- 1872-1922 Small article gold fineness mark
- Pre 1872 925 silver mark (925 in a rectangle)
 - 1870 type Vienna Assay Office mark (A)
 - The word WEIN in a rectangle





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Pre 1812 Style Cross

Design: A gold clawed cross with white enameled arms and a red and white enameled archducal coat of arms as the obverse center medallion. The upper arm of the cross has a stylized floral or wedge shaped eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the ribbon. This version of the badge which was issued from the inception of the award until 1812 consists of a Leopold style cross with an asterisk or star at the top of the inscription. After 1812 the arms of the star are often curved and the star or asterisk was moved to the bottom of the inscription.

Note: Some sources site 1812 as the point in time that the star was moved to the bottom of the inscription and some site 1816. Since the author has seen examples of this award from the Napoleonic wars that have the star at the bottom the 1812 date will be used in this document.

Obverse:

Grand Cross Badge: A gold clawed cross the arms of which are enameled white. The center medallion is round. It has red, white, red, horizontal bars in enamel (white bar on red field). This is the Austrian Babenberg Grand Dukes Coat of Arms. Around the center medallion is a white enameled ring with a fine gilt edge on each side for type I badges and on the inside for Type II badges. The outside edge is adorned with a heavy beaded ring for the Type II badges. The white enameled ring has the inscription **FORTITVDINI** * (Bravery) in gold letters. The upper arm of the cross has a stylized floral (Type I) or wedge shaped (Type II) eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the sash. The versions of the badge with a Leopold style cross and an asterisk or star at the top of the inscription were issued prior to 1812 (Type I) while those badges with wavy arms and star or asterisk at the bottom of the inscription were introduced after 1812. The Type II badge was introduced in 1917 by Rothe.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

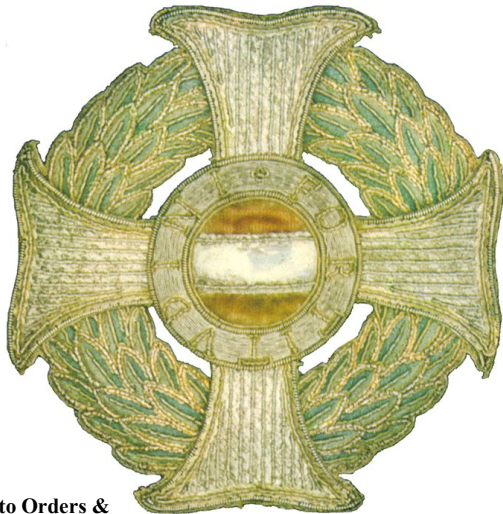


Image attributed to Orders & Decorations, Vaclav Mericka

1765-1812 Bullion Star



Post 1812 Bullion Star

Obverse Continued

Grand Cross Star (Introduced in 1765):

- Bullion Star: A four armed gold and silver bullion star in the same shape as the badge of the order. Between the arms of the cross is a green and gold bullion laurel wreath. In the center of the badge is a round medallion. The center of the medallion has three enameled horizontal bands, red white red. Around the center medallion is a gold ring. Outside of the ring is a silver or gold circle which is also rimmed with gold beads. On the silver/gold outer ring is inscribed in gold is the word **FORTITVDINI** (Bravery) with an asterisk at the top in the pre1812 versions and at the bottom post 1812.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Pre 1812 Metal Star

Image attributed to Pinterest



Post 1812 Metal Star

Obverse Continued: Grand Cross Star:

- Metal Star: A four armed gold and silver metal star in the same shape as the badge of the order. Stars made after 1847 utilize the typical Austrian diamond cut star body. Between the arms of the cross is a green enameled gold edged Laurel wreath. In the center of the badge is a round medallion. The center of the medallion has three enameled horizontal bands, red white red. Around the center medallion is a gold beaded ring. Outside of the ring is a white enameled circle which is also rimmed with gold beads. On the white enameled ring is inscribed in gold is the word **FORTITVDINI** (Bravery) with an asterisk at the top in the pre1812 versions and at the bottom post 1812.





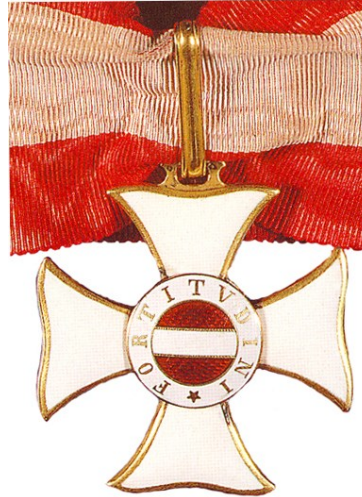
Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Type I Commander Badge



Type II Commander Badge

Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom
Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer
& Christian Steeb

Obverse Continued:

Commander and Knight Badge:

- Type I (Pre 1812): A gold clawed cross the arms of which are enameled white. The center medallion is round. It has red, white, red, horizontal bars in enamel (white bar on red field). This is the Austrian Babenberg Grand Dukes Coat of arms. Around the center medallion is a white enameled ring with a fine gilt edge on each side. This ring has the inscription **FORTITVDINI** (Bravery) in gold letters with an asterisk at the top. Around the white enameled ring is a gold band. The upper arm of the cross has a stylized wedge shaped eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the cravat style ribbon.
- Type II (Post 1812): A gold clawed cross with the ends of the cross being wavy. The arms of the cross are enameled white. The center medallion is round. It has red, white, red, horizontal bars in enamel (white bar on red field). This is the Austrian Babenberg Grand Dukes Coat of arms. Around the center medallion is a white enameled ring with a fine gilt edge on each side. This ring has the inscription **FORTITVDINI** (Bravery) in gold letters with an asterisk at the bottom. Around the white enameled ring is a gold band. The upper arm of the cross has a stylized wedge shaped eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the cravat style ribbon.

Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom
Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer
& Christian Steeb



Type II Knight Badge





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Pre 1816 Style Cross

Reverse:

Grand Cross Badge: A gold clawed cross the arms of which are enameled white. The center medallion is round. Around the center medallion is a narrow gold band on the inner and outer margin within which is a ring of green enamel. Under the green enamel can be seen chased into the metal laurel leaves. Inside the green enamel ring is a circular white medallion on which in capital letters is the combined monogram MT and F (Maria Theresia and Franz). The upper arm of the cross has a stylized floral (Type I) or wedge shaped (Type II) eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the sash.

Commander and Knight Cross: A gold clawed cross the arms of which are enameled white. The center medallion is round. Around the center medallion is a narrow gold band on the inner and outer margin within which is a ring of green enamel. Under the green enamel can be seen chased into the metal laurel leaves. Inside the green enamel ring is a circular white medallion on which in capital letters is the combined monogram MT and F (Maria Theresia and Franz). The upper arm of the cross has a stylized wedge shaped eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the ribbon.

Image attributed to Nicolas Vandevoorde
At Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

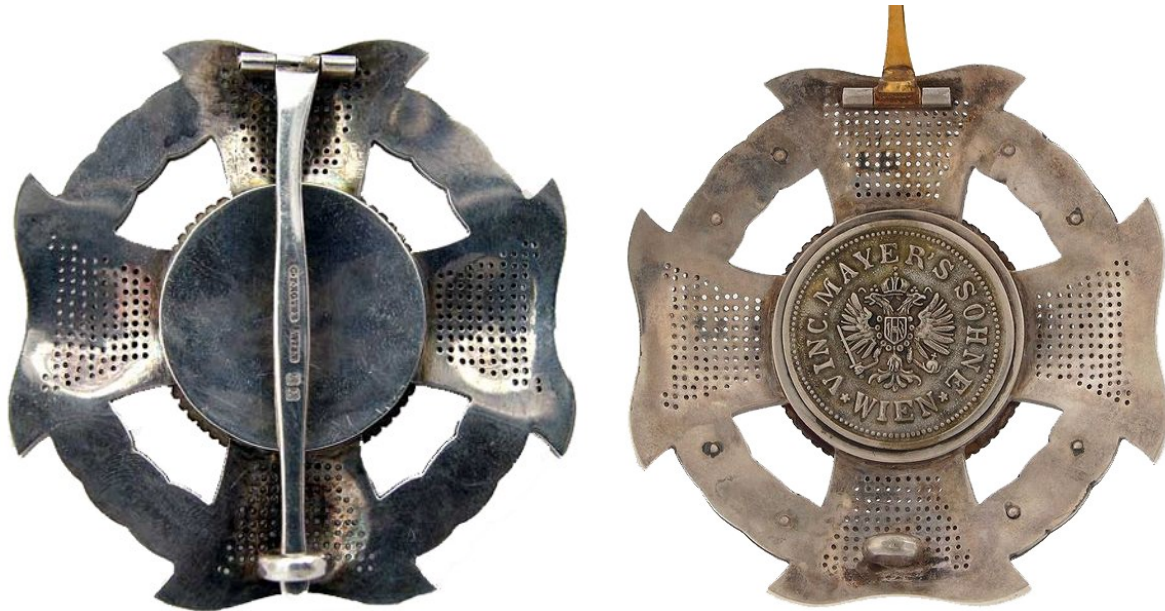


Image attributed to Pinterest

Reverse Continued:

Grand Cross Star: Plain reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. The reverse of the badges made by Mayer and Sons has their medallion on the back

Weight:

- The Grand Cross badge: 34.5-62 Grams
- Type I Grand Cross Star: Unknown
- Type II Grand Cross Star: A bullion star issued after 1800: Unknown
- Type III Grand Cross Star: A metal star issued after 1815: 61.5 grams
- Type IV Grand Cross Star: A metal star issued after 1900: 73 grams
- The Commander Badge: 19.8 - 27.6 grams
- The Knight Badge: 10.4-21 grams.
- The Knight Badge in brilliants: 18.9 grams

Size:

- The Grand Cross badge: 42-44 mm in diameter from 1765 to 1914. After 1914 it is 50-52 mm in diameter.
- The Grand Cross badge in diamonds: 60 mm in diameter
- Type I Grand Cross Star: A bullion star issued prior to 1800: 104 mm in diameter.
- Type II Grand Cross Star: A bullion star issued after 1800: 70 - 72 mm in diameter.
- Type III Grand Cross Star: A metal star issued after 1815: 70 - 72 mm in diameter.
- Type IV Grand Cross Star: A metal star issued after 1900: 60 - 62 mm in diameter.
- The Commander Badge: 42-44 mm in diameter.
- The Knight Badge: 28-32 mm in diameter.
- The Knight Badge in brilliants: 32-48 mm in diameter





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Star awarded to Joseph Wenzel Graf Radetzky von Radetz in 1854

Type of Material: Issued badges were always made of gold, even during WWI when most other insignia were made of lesser metals.

Badge:

- Gold and enamel
- Brilliants and gold
- Bronze gilt versions of the order with opaque enamel were produced by Rothe in 1938 to replace stolen insignia

Star:

- Silver, gold and enamel
- Brilliants and gold



Badge circa 1757





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

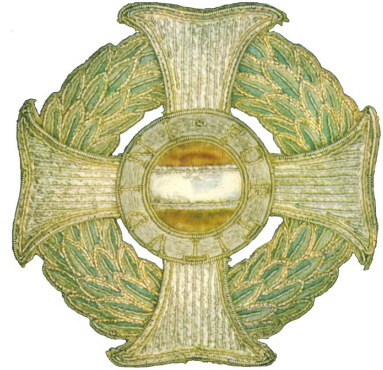
Variations:

Grand Cross Star

Bullion star

- Type I: As previously described (1757 to 1812)

Image attributed to Orders & Decorations , Vaclav Mericka



- Type II: As previously described (Post 1816)



Metal Star

- Type I: As previously described (Pre 1816)





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Variations Continued: Grand Cross Star

Metal star

- Type II: As previously described except with the asterisk at the bottom (Post 1816)
- Type III: As previously described but with diamond cut star (Post 1847)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type IV: The same as the Type I and Type II except in diamonds, rubies and emeralds. The grand cross in diamonds was issued four times. The first jeweled crosses were given to Archduke Carl von Babsburg, Feldmarschall Ernst Freiherrn von Laudon and Prince Friedrich Josias von Sax-Coburg in 1794. The last authenticated jeweled cross was issued in 1843 to the Archduke Karl von Habsburg. Those issued prior to 1816 have the asterisk at the top and that issued after 1812 have the asterisk at the bottom
- Type V: The same as Type I and II except the obverse inscription is written as FORTITUDINI instead of FORTITVDINI



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

**Archduke Karl Von Habsburg
jeweled cross**





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued: Grand Cross Star

- Type VI: This is an unusual example of the bullion star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the Emperors of Austria. This is a pre-1812 example of this badge





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued: Grand Cross Star

- Type VII: This is a very unusual example of the metal star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the Emperors of Austria. This is a post 1812 example of this badge





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued: Grand Cross Badge

- Type I: As previously described
(Pre 1812)



- Type II: As previously described with a rim of gold beads around the edge of the center medallion on the obverse and reverse and this later version of the cross has the wavy arms (circa 1917-18). These crosses were manufactured by Rothe.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued: Grand Cross Badge

Type IV Cross



- Type III: A pre 1816 jeweled version. The cross is encrusted with diamonds and rubies



Image attributed
to Pinterest

- Type IV: As Type II except it does not have the beaded rim around the obverse and reverse center medallion (circa 1917-18).
- Type V: The same as Type I and II except the obverse inscription is written as **FORTITUDINI** instead of **FORTITVDINI**
- Type VI: As Type V except there is no star on the inscription ring. Rather there are three dots at the end of the inscription.
- Type VII: As Type VI except that the word **FORTITUDINI** is in the upper half of the inscription ring.
- Type VIII: As Type VII except that below the word **FORTITUDINI** in the lower half of the inscription ring is a laurel wreath
- Type IX: Same as Type I except the reverse monogram is in script and not as stylized.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Variations Continued: Commander

- Type I = As previously described with asterisk at the top of the Inscription (pre 1816)



- Type II = As previously described with wavy arms and asterisk at the bottom of the inscription (Post 1816)

Type I: Pre 1816 Commander Badge

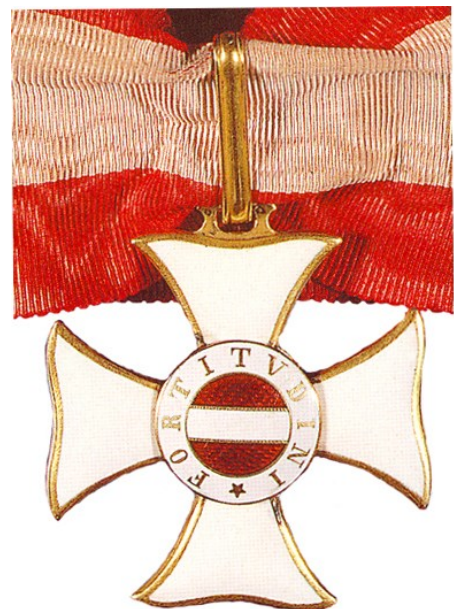


Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom
Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer
& Christian Steeb

**Type II: Post 1816
Commander Badge**





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued:

Commander

- Type III = The same as Type I and II except the obverse inscription is written as FORTITUDINI instead of FORTITVDINI
- Type IV: The same as type II except that the arms of the reverse of the cross have a dedication in black letters. The first example shown here which is inscribed DIE/ ZWEITE/ ARMEE/ IHREM FUHRER (The Second Army our leader) was given to Feldmarschall Eduard Freiherr von Bohm-Ermoli. This type badge was issued in WWI. (See below)

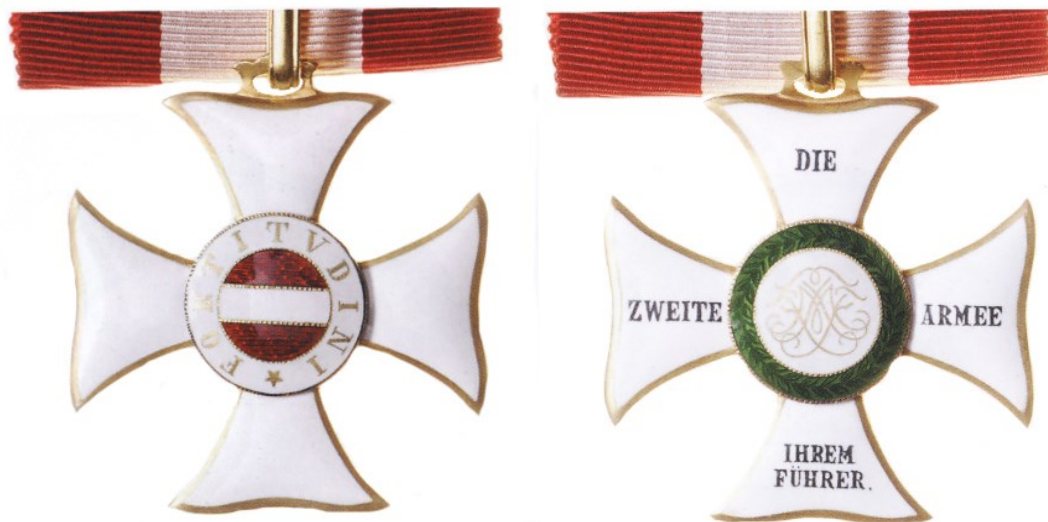


Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type V: The same as Type I and II except the obverse inscription is written as FORTITUDINI instead of FORTITVDINI
- Type VI: As Type V except there is no star on the inscription ring. Rather there are three dots at the end of the inscription.
- Type VII: As Type VI except that the word **FORTITUDINI** is in the upper half of the inscription ring.
- Type VIII: As Type VII except that below the word **FORTITUDINI** in the lower half of the inscription ring is a laurel wreath
- Type IX: Same as Type I except the reverse monogram is in script and not as stylized.





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Variations Continued:

Knight Badge

- Type I (pre 1812): As previously described with straight arms and asterisk at the top of the Inscription.
- Type II (post 1812): As previously described with wavy arms and asterisk at the bottom of the inscription.
- Type III: A jeweled version of the knights badge. The cross is encrusted with diamonds and rubies. Pre 1812 badges have the asterisk at the top of the Inscription and straight arms while post 1812 badges have the asterisk at the bottom of the inscription and wavy arms.
- Type IV: The same as Type I and II except the obverse inscription is written as FORTITUDINI instead of FORTITVDINI.
- Type V: As Type IV except there is no star on the inscription ring. Rather there are three dots at the end of the inscription.
- Type VII: As Type VI except that the word **FORTITUDINI** is in the upper half of the inscription ring.
- Type VII: As Type VII except that below the word **FORTITUDINI** in the lower half of the inscription ring is a laurel wreath
- Type IX: Same as Type I except the reverse monogram is in script and not as stylized.

Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom
Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer
& Christian Steeb



Post 1816 Knight Badge Type IV



Post 1816 Jeweled
Knight Badge
obverse

Post 1816 Jeweled
Knight Badge
reverse



Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom
Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer
& Christian Steeb





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Designer/manufacturer:

- Johann Michael Grosser, Grand Cross with diamonds (1757)
- Paul Kobril of Vienna (Produced the original badges in 1765)
- Andre Alckens of Vienna produced the original embroidered stars
- Johann Schachtl of Prague (Prior to 1759)
- Ignaz Joseph Schmidt and his widow Irma Schmidt of Vienna (1801-1837)
- J.A. Scholl, Grand Cross star in diamonds circa 1750
- Johann Michael von Grosser (circa 1760) (also known to have produced jeweled examples of the badge)
- C.F. Rothe of Vienna (manufactured insignia from 1859 to the end of the empire and thereafter until 1938)
- Vincent Mayer & Sons

Number Issued:

- The total number of orders issued from 1757 - 1931 was 1,241
- 61 Grand Crosses of which 15 were awarded to foreigners
- 141 Commanders of which 29 were awarded to foreigners
- 1,039 Knights of which 127 were awarded to foreigners
- From 1914 - 1918 there were 131 orders issued, 11 grand crosses including 7 awarded to heads of state, 10 commanders crosses including 1 foreign general officer (von Moltke) and 110 knight's crosses

Order of Precedence

- **Grand Cross:** Number 2 after the Order of the Golden Fleece and before the Military Maria Theresa Order, commander
- **Commander:** Number 9 after the Order of Franz Joseph, Grand Cross and before the Order of St. Stephan Commander
- **Knight:** Number 16 after the Order of Franz Joseph, commander and before all Kleine decorations

Case:

Grand Cross Case: A blue fabric covered case with a white interior.



Image attributed to Verganglicher Glanz...,
Altosterreichs Orden, Walter Schwarz





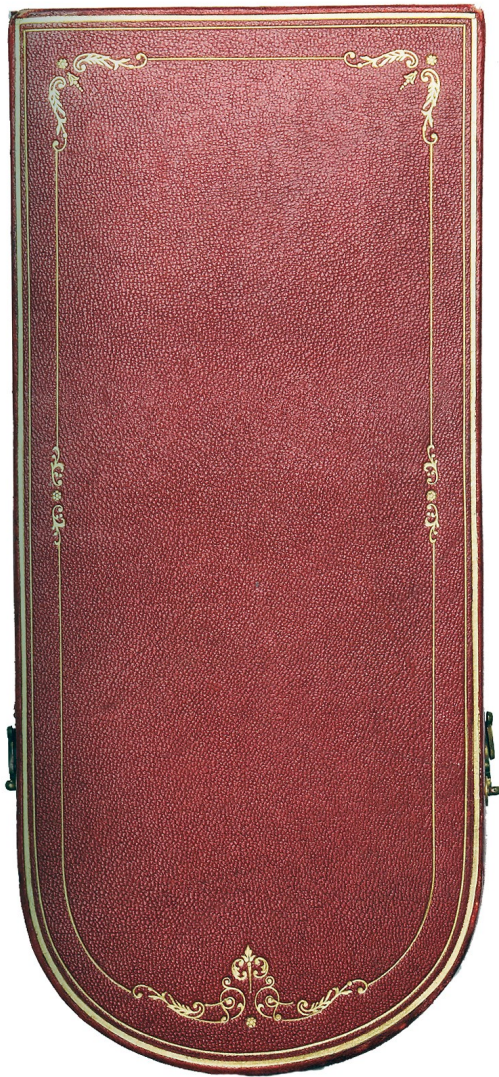
Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Case:

Grand Cross Case: A red simulated leather case with gold embellishments on the outer lid and a white silk interior often with the maker's logo in gold. The bottom has a black fitted interior.



Images Courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)

Case:

Commander Case: A red simulated leather case with gold embellishments on the outer lid and a white silk interior often with the maker's logo in gold. The bottom has a black fitted interior.



Images Courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Ribbon: The ribbon is silk moiré in Ponceau (poppy) red with a wide white center stripe. This is the coat of arms of the Babenberg Dukes. The original knight crosses were worn on a 38 mm straight ribbon. After 1840 the knight badges were worn on a standard 40 mm tri-fold ribbon. During WWI recipients after 1917 resumed, in some cases, wearing the knight badge on a straight ribbon in the button hole. The commander ribbon is 50 mm wide and the grand cordon is 105 mm in width. The original ribbons were manufactured by the court ribbon maker, Johann Gotz

- The grand cordon is 100-105 mm in width and has a rosette at the end to which the grand cross badge is attached. It was worn over the right shoulder with the rosette resting on the left hip. Older versions of the grand cordon have a bow instead of a rosette.
- Commander badge worn around the neck on a 50 mm wide cravat.
- The Knight ribbon was 38 mm wide until World War I when it became 40 mm in width. The ribbon was originally straight and could be worn in the button hole but was changed to a tri-fold ribbon after 1861



Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

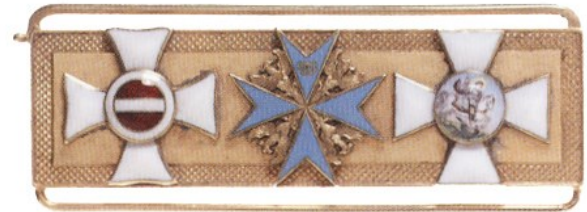




Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum

Image attributed to Österreichs Orden, vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb

Attachments: There are no official attachments authorized for this order but there were in the early period of its history (Circa 1800-1815) bars that were worn on the order ribbon on civilian dress to signify the receipt of the award. The bars which were referred to as "Berets" were of various sizes. The one pictured to the viewers top left was gold and enamel and was 17 mm in height and 41 mm in width and weighed 7 grams.

The chest ribbon attachments to designate the higher grades of the award are a miniature of the Grand Cross star to denote the Grand Cross and a miniature gold Maria Theresa Order cross to denote the commanders badge. The small rectangular ribbon with these attachments was introduced on October 27, 1917.



Miniature: There are miniatures in various sizes and weights which were made by a range of manufacturers.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Some Known Recipients:

Awards in Brilliants

- Ernst Gideon Freiherr von Loudon, Fieldmarschall, Grand Cross (October 9, 1789)
- Prinz Fredrich Josias Herzog von Sachsen-Coburg-Saalfeld, Grand Cross (1789)
- Friedrich Josias Prinz von Sachsen-Coburg-Saalfeld, Fieldmarschall, Grand Cross (1794)
- Archduke Karl von Habsburg, Grand Cross (April 5, 1843)
- Joseph Wenzel Graf Radetzky von Radetz, Grand Cross, (1854)
- General of Cavalry Leopold Graf Sternberg, Knight, (June 8, 1899)
- General of Cavalry Johann Ritter von Appel, Knight, (December 1903)
- General of Infantry Geza Fejervary de Komlos-Keresztes, Knight (June 23, 1909)

Grand Cross

- Joseph Freiherr Alvintzy de Berberek, Feldzeugmeister 1813
- Ludwig Anton Duke von Angouleme, French General 1848
- Karl Leopold Duke von Arenberg, Feldzeugmeister, 1758
- Russian Lieutenant General Prince Bagration
- Feldzeugmeister Maximilian Graf Baillet de Latour, 1799
- Johann Freiherr von Beaulieu, Feldmarschall 1794
- Philipp Freiherr von Beck, Lieutenant General 1760
- Blasius Freiher Bender, Feldzeugmeister 1789
- Levin Bennigsen, General 1814
- Feldmarschall Joseph Freiherr von Alvintzy de Berberek, 1794
- Karl Johann Bernadotte, Crown Prince 1813
- Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, Prussian Feldmarschall 1813
- Josef von Brentano, Lieutenant General 1763
- Adolf Freiherr von Buccow, General of Cavalry 1761
- Friedrich von Bulow, Prussian General 1814
- Count Eduard Clam-Gallas, General der Kavallerie, 1848
- Feldmarschall Carl Clemens Graf Pellegrini, 1789
- Karl Count Clerfayt de la Croix, Feldzeugmeister 1789
- Leopold, Count, Daun, Feldmarschall 1757
- Ernst Dietrich, Freiherr Baron von Bieberstein, Feldzeugmeister 1758
- Nikolaus Esterhazy, Feldmarschall, 1765
- Ferdinand I Czar of Bulgaria, 1917
- Ferdinand Prince von Württemberg, Lieutenant General 1813
- Joseph Count Ferraris, Feldzeugmeister 1793
- Frederick Duke of York, British Feldmarschall 1814
- Friedrich August III, of Saxony, 1917
- Friedrich Josias Prince von Sax-Coburg, General of Cavalry 1789
- Ernst Count Giannini, Major General 1762
- August Gneisenau, Prussian General 1814
- Johann de Gribeauval, Major General 1762
- Franz Count Guasco, Lieutenant General 1762
- Albrecht von Hapsburg, Archduke, Feldmarschall, 1866
- Charles von Habsburg, Archduke
- Field Marshal Archduke Eugen von Habsburg, 1917





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Grand Cross, continued

- Feldmarschall Friedrich von Habsburg, Archduke, 1916
- Franz Joseph I, von Habsburg, Emperor
- Johann von Habsburg, Archduke, General of Cavalry, 1809
- Joseph von Habsburg, Feldmarschall, 1790
- Karl Franz Joseph, Archduke, and Emperor 1917
- Karl Ludwig von Hapsburg, Archduke, Major General, 1793
- Leopold von Habsburg, Archduke, Grand Duke of Tuscany, Feldmarschall 1765
- Andreas Count Hadik von Futak, Lieutenant General, (1780)
- Julius Freiherr von Haynau, General 1850
- Paul von Beneckendorff und Hindenburg-, German Feldmarschall, 1918
- Friedrich Wilhelm Prince Hohenlohe-Kirchberg, Feldzeugmeister 1793
- Joseph Conrad von Hotzendorf, Feldmarschall, 1917
- Feldmarschall Joseph Johann Graf Ferraris, 1793
- Friedrich Kleist, Prussian General 1814
- Mikhail Golenishtschew Kutusow, General 1806
- Franz Moritz Count Lacy, Feldmarschall, 1758
- Max Count de Latour, General 1796
- Gideon Ernst von Laudon, Feldmarschall, 1758
- Leopold Prince of Bavaria, 1918
- Grand Duke Leopold Peter of Tuscany, Feldmarschall, 1765
- Johann Prince Liechtenstein, Lieutenant General, 1801
- Duke Charles of Lorraine, 1757
- Karl von Lothringen, 1757
- Christian Prince Lowenstein-Wertheim, General of Cavalry 1763
- Ludwig III King of Bavaria, 1917
- August von Mackensen, German Feldmarschall, 1918
- Johann Sigismund Count Maquire von Inniskillin, Lieutenant General 1760
- German General of Infantry Helmut von Moltke
- Franz Count Nadasdy, General of Cavalry, (1708-1783)
- Laval Nugent, Count, General 1814
- Karl Count O'Donnell, General of Cavalry 1761
- Franz Orsini-Rosenberg, General of Cavalry, 1763
- Ivan Feodorowitsch Paskiewitsch, Prince of Erivan and Warsaw, Russian Feldmarschall 1849
- Konstantine Pavlovitsch Grand Prince of Russia 1799
- Karl Count Pellegrini, Feldmarschall, 1789
- Feldmarschall Joseph Graf Radetzky de Radetz, 1848
- Feldmarschall Carl Phillipp Furst zu Schwarzenberg, Herzog von Krumau, 1813
- Claudius Baron von Sincere, Lieutenant General (later Fieldzeugmeister), 1758
- Alexander Count Suvorov Rymnikski Prince Italiski, Commander of Russian Forces 1799
 - Emanuel Taudentz, Prussian General 1814
 - Michal Barclay de Tolly, Russian General 1814
 - Alexander Count Ostermann Tolstoy, Russian Lieutenant General 1814
 - Joseph Freiherr de Vins, Feldzeugmeister 1789





Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Grand Cross, continued

- Arthur Wellesley Duke of Wellington, British Field Marshall (1814)
- Friedrich Count Wied Wied-Runkel, Feldzeugmeister 1761
- Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia, 1914
- Alfred Prince Windischgraetz, Feldmarschall, 1850
- Ludwig Wittgenstein, Russian General 1814
- Karl Wrede, Bavarian General 1814
- Dagobert Count Wurmser, General of Cavalry 1793
- Johann David York, Prussian General 1814
- Friedrich Zweibrucken-Birkenfeld, Prince, Feldmarschall 1760



Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington
Wearing the Grand Cross star and cordon of the Military Maria Theresa Order

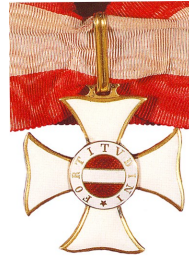




Orders of Knighthood

Military Maria Theresa Order

(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Known recipients of the Commander Cross

- Feldmarschall Joseph Freiherr von Alvintzy de Berberek, 1793
- Generaloberst Arthur Freiherr Arz von Straussenburg
- Feldzeugmeister Maximilian Graf Baillet de Latour, 1794
- Feldzeugmeister Johann Peter Freiherr von Beaulieu de Marconnay, 1790
- Heinrich Joseph Johannes Graf von Bellegarde
- Feldmarschall Svetožar Boroevič von Bojna, 1931 posthumously
- Feldmarschal Eduard Baron von Böhm-Ermolli, 1917
- General Friedrich Wilhelm Freiherr von Bülow, Graf von Dennewitz, Prussian
- Feldmarschalleutnant Eduard Clam-Gallas
- Feldmarschall Carl Clemens Graf Pellegrini, 1765
- Feldmarschalleutnant Emanuel Cvjetičanin
- Generaloberst Viktor Dankl von Krasnik, 1917
- Josip Kazimir Drasković, 1765
- Feldzeugmeister Josip Filipović, 1879
- Grand Admiral Anton Freiherr von Haus, 1917 Posthumously
- Feldzeugmeister Julius Jacob Heinrich Friedrich Ludwig Freiherr von Haynau
- Feldzeugmeister Heinrich Hermann Josef Freiherr von Heß
- Friedrich Wilhelm Prince Hohenlohe-Kirchberg, Feldzeugmeister 1789
- Feldmarschal Count Josip Jelačić od Buzim
- Feldmarschall Joseph Johann Graf Ferraris, 1790
- General Josip Kazimir
- Archduke Feldmarschal Joseph August Viktor Klemens Maria von Habsburg
- Feldmarschal Herman Kövess von Kövessháza
- General Franjo Ksaver Tomasić
- Grand Duke Leopold Peter of Tuscany, Feldmarschall
- Feldzeugmeister Alois Gonzaga Joseph Furst von und zu Liechtenstein
- Feldmarschall Johann Joseph Furst Liechtenstein, 1796
- Feldmarschal Laval Graf Nugent von Westmeath, 1814
- General Karlo Pavao
- Peter Vitus Freiherr von Quosdanovich
- Feldmarschall Joseph Graf Radetzky de Radetz, 1809/1811
- Feldmarschall Carl Philipp Furst zu Schwarzenberg, Herzog von Krumau, 1806
- Feldzeugmeister Josip Sisković
- Field Marshall Henry Paget 1st Marquess of Anglesey, Great Britain
- General Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill, Great Britain

Award Documents: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Johann Baptist Joseph Fabian Sebastian Erzherzog von Österreich
Wearing the Grand Cross bullion star of the Military Maria Theresa Order





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Archduke Charles von Habsburg
Wearing an early version of the Grand Cross metal star of the Military Maria Theresa Order

Image attributed to Orders &
Decorations , Vaclav Mericka





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Emperor Franz I
Wearing the Military Maria Theresa Order as part of the four star cluster group worn by
Emperors of Austria





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Prinz Friedrich Josias Herzog von Sachsen-Coburg-Saalfeld
Wearing the Jeweled Grand Cross star of the Military Maria Theresa Order





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Emperor Karl
Wearing the Grand Cross star of the Military Maria Theresa Order on his Field Marshal's field uniform





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Feldmarschall Laval Graf von Nugent-Westmeath
wearing the commander badge of the Military Maria Theresa Order





Orders of Knighthood
Military Maria Theresa Order
(Militär-Maria-Theresien-Orden)



Feldmarschalleutnant Balthasar Simunich
wearing the knights badge of the Military Maria Theresa Order





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: In the spring of 1764 in Frankfurt on Main Archduke Joseph, son of Emperor Franz I and the Empress Maria Theresia were chosen to be the Holy Roman Emperor and Empress for which a great celebration was organized and at which the inauguration of the Royal Hungarian Order of St Stephan took place (May 5, 1764). The first knights were appointed at this time. The order continued to be officially issued until October 3, 1931 for services rendered in WWI. It was issued in a dubious manner by Hungary from August 20, 1938 until 1944.

Reason Issued: The Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephan was established to be the highest civilian merit order of the monarchy: This order was for extraordinary and outstanding merit other than military merit.

Classes or Types: This order was issued in three classes and a collar for the highest ranking recipients:

- Collar of the order and Grand Cross badge
- Grand Cross, (Grand Cross badge on grand cordon with star)
- Commander, (neck badge)
- Knight.

The individual classes were granted based on the circumstances and the degree of merit. The order was given primarily to the aristocracy, especially the Hungarian aristocracy. Outstanding merit warranted its being given to commoners. This happened more frequently in later years. The number of recipients from the homeland was limited. High church dignitaries became members of the order as if they were citizens of a foreign state. The Order could also be awarded to foreigners

Interesting Facts:

- Archduke Peter Leopold was the first recipient of the award.
- The Grand Master of the order was to be the Hungarian monarch.
- Only men were authorized to receive the order. However there was one women recipient: Maria Theresa as the founder of the order.
 - The order had a special uniform for each class of recipient which was discontinued in 1812.
 - The order statutes and official documents are in Latin.
 - The order was the highest award of the Hungarian portion of the empire.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Interesting Facts (continued):

- The knights of the order had the privilege of meeting with the sovereign as the Grandmaster of the order at any time without a previous appointment.
- The order chapter including the responsibility for the management and oversight of the order was transferred to Hungary in 1922
- The recipients of the grand cross became Privy Councilors, commanders became Honorary Privy Councilors, recipients of the knight cross were granted membership into the ranks of the Barons (Baronet), but could apply for membership into the ranks of the Counts. After July 18, 1884 this privilege was rescinded.
- After 1884 holders of this award were allowed to place the insignia on their coat of arms
- The Order festival day is St. Stephen's Day or the following Sunday
- Upon the death of an order member the survivors were required to return the order insignia to the treasurer of the order.
- Count Franz Esterhazy played a significant role in the establishment of the order
- These crosses were issued in jeweled versions. One such cross was made for the order Grand Master, Maria Theresia in diamonds, emeralds and rubies.
- Originally the candidates for the grand cross had to prove descent from four generations of noble ancestors. The Grand Master had the prerogative of dispensing with this requirement. In later times, the ruler often used this right.
- On August 20, 1938 the regent of the Hungarian Royal Lands, Admiral Nikolaus Horthy of Nagybnya decided that the Order of St. Stephan was not defunct but was to continue as a Hungarian order, because its existence was associated with the prerogatives of the crown of St. Stephan. Admiral Horthy at the same time assumed the title of Grand Master of the order. Thus the end date of the order is in some dispute and can be said to have occurred in 1945
- There is one known case of a refusal of the award of the Order. In 1867 Hungarian poet Janos Arany declined the award stating that he was unworthy to receive it.
- There were only eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross, the Elisabeth Order and the Civil Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.
- There were only seven knights who were recipients of all three classes and they were all Hungarian or from Siebenburgen
- The order officers were: Order Prelate, the Order Chancellor, the Order Grand Master, the order Greffier (secretary), The order Treasurer, the order herald and the order chancery clerk





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Hallmarks:

- The mark of the Vienna Assay Office
- The 1867-1872 900 fine silver hallmark
- The 1867-1872 800 fine silver hall mark
- The 850 gold hallmark
- The Mark of CF Rothe
- The 900 fine silver mark

Design: A gold Greek clawed cross with concave arm ends (circa 1764) and wavy arm ends after 1860. The arms of the cross are enameled dark green. The center medallion is round and has white, red and green enamel. The cross is suspended from the Hungarian Crown.

Obverse:

Badge: A gold Greek clawed cross with concave arm ends (circa 1764) and wavy arm ends after 1860. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a round medallion. The center of the medallion is chased with red enamel. On the red portion of the center medallion are three, gold edged green enameled hills. On the center hill is a gold queen's crown. Above the crown is white patriarch's cross. The components of the center medallion represent the coat of arms of ancient Hungary. On the left side of the patriarch's cross is the letter **M** and on the right **T** (Maria Theresa). Around the red disk in the center of the medallion is a white enameled ring. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine gold line. The white ring has the following inscription **PUBLICUM MERITORUM PRAEMIUM *** (This is the order motto: Reward for Public Merit). On the upper arm of the cross is a stylized eye of various shapes, which attaches the cross to a loop on the bottom center of a gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to a decorative suspension ring which attached the ribbon.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Early Bullion Star (1764-1817)

Image attributed to Kituntetese, Agnes Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi



Early Metal Star (1812-1871)

Image attributed to Österreichs Orden, vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb

Obverse:

Grand Cross Star:

- **Grand Cross Bullion Star 1764 –1817:** An eight pointed blade cut bullion star. The star is almost round in shape. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Grand Cross center medallion, around which is a green and gold oak wreath.
- **Grand Cross Bullion Star 1815 –1830:** An eight pointed blade cut bullion star. The star is almost round in shape. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Grand Cross center medallion, around which is an oak wreath.
- **Grand Cross Metal Star 1812 –1871:** An eight pointed blade cut silver metal star. The star is often almost round in shape. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Grand Cross center medallion, around which is a green and gold oak wreath.



Bullion star 1815-1830



Metal Star (1812-1871) Variant





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Obverse:

Grand Cross Star:

- **Grand Cross star Post 1871:** An eight-pointed diamond cut silver star with a 35 - 40 mm center medallion. The center medallion is the red enameled obverse center medallion of Grand Cross. Around it is a 6 - 7 mm wide white enameled ring within which is a green enameled gold oak wreath. Around this ring is a beaded rim of gold or silver.
- **Grand Cross Star with war decoration and swords:** The same as the post 1871 star except with attached war decoration in the form of a gold wreath passing under the tips of the star and crossed gold swords passing over the wreath and under the center medallion of the star. (The validity of this star is in dispute)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Obverse:

Grand Cross Badge circa 1764-1860: A gold Greek clawed cross with concave arms. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a 27 mm round medallion. The center of the medallion is chased red enamel. On the red portion of the medallion are three, gold edged green enameled hills. On the center hill is a gold queen's crown. Above the crown is white patriarch's cross. The components of the center medallion represent the coat of arms of ancient Hungary. On the left side of the patriarch's cross is the letter **M** and on the right **T** (Maria Theresa). Around the red disk in the center of the medallion is a white enameled ring. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine line of gold. The white ring has the following inscription **PUBLICUM MERITORUM PRAEMIUM *** (This is the order motto: Reward for Public Service). On the upper arm of the cross is a stylized eye, which attaches the cross by way of an oval double wire attachment to a 28-40 mm gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to a suspension ring which attaches the badge to the grand cordon ribbon.



Grand Cross badge and star circa 1764

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Obverse:

Grand Cross Badge After 1860: A gold Greek clawed cross with wavy arm ends. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a round medallion. The center of the medallion is chased red enamel. On the red portion of the medallion are three, gold edged green enameled hills. On the center hill is a gold queen's crown. Above the crown is white patriarch's cross. The components of the center medallion represent the coat of arms of ancient Hungary. On the left side of the patriarch's cross is the letter **M** and on the right **T** (Maria Theresa). Around the red disk in the center of the medallion is a white enameled ring. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine line of gold. The white ring has the following inscription **PUBLICUM MERITORUM PRAEMIUM *** (This is the order motto: Reward for Public Service). On the upper arm of the cross is a stylized eye, which attaches the cross to a gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to an oval ring that in turn attaches to the Grand Cordon ribbon





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Obverse:

Commander: A gold Greek clawed cross which with curved arm ends until 1860 and wavy arm ends thereafter. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a round medallion 20-22 mm in diameter. The center of the medallion is chased red enamel. On the red portion of the medallion are three, gold edged green enameled hills. On the center hill is a gold queen's crown. Above the crown is white patriarch's cross. The components of the center medallion represent the coat of arms of ancient Hungary. On the left side of the patriarch's cross is the letter **M** and on the right **T** (Maria Theresa). Around the red disk in the center of the medallion is a white enameled ring. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine line of gold. The white ring has the following inscription **PUBLICUM MERITORUM PRAEMIUM** * (This is the order motto: Reward For Public Service). On the upper arm of the cross is a stylized eye, which attaches the cross to a 30X33 mm gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to an oval ring that in turn attaches to the Commander Cravat ribbon.

Knight Badge: A gold Greek clawed cross (older crosses were sometimes larger with curved arm ends until 1860 and wavy arm ends thereafter. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a round medallion. The center of the medallion is chased red enamel. On the red portion of the medallion are three, gold edged green enameled hills. On the center hill is a gold queen's crown. Above the crown is white patriarch's cross. The components of the center 16—18 mm in diameter medallion represent the coat of arms of ancient Hungary. On the left side of the patriarch's cross is the letter **M** and on the right **T** (Maria Theresa). Around the red disk in the center of the medallion is a white enameled ring. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine line of gold. The white ring has the following inscription **PUBLICUM MERITORUM PRAEMIUM** * (Reward For Public Service). On the upper arm of the cross is a stylized eye, which attaches the cross to a 27 x 26 mm gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to the ribbon





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Reverse of badge in all grades

Badge in all grades: A gold Greek clawed cross with curved arm ends from 1764 to 1860 and wavy arm ends thereafter. The arms of the cross are clear green enamel with chasing beneath the enamel. In the center of the cross is a round medallion. The center of the medallion is white opaque enamel. On this medallion is inscribed, in three lines: **STO. / STRI. / AP.**

(SANCTO STEPHANO, REGI APOSTOLICO)
(St. Stephan Apostolic King). Around the white disk in the center of the medallion is a clear green enameled ring. Stylized oak leaves can be seen through the green enamel. The ring is bordered on the inside and outside with a fine line of gold. On the upper arm of the cross is an eye, which attaches the cross to a gilt Hungarian crown. The crown has a ring passing through its orb, which attaches the badge to the ribbon.

Grand Cross Bullion Star 1764-1817: The reverse either has a paper backing or one of material on which the bullion star was mounted

This is the reverse of the star presented to Napoleon I. The inscription reads
Napoleon/18ten Juny 1815/bey der
baggage/genommen



Image attributed to Österreichs Orden, vom Mittelalter
bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Pre 1860 star reverse



Post 1860 star reverse

Grand Cross metal star 1764 to 1871: A plain silver reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform

Grand Cross metal star after 1871: A plain silver pierced reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform

Grand Cross metal star with war decoration and swords: A plain silver pierced reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. Attached by rivets to the arms of the star is a gilt engraved wreath. (The validity of this star is in dispute)





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Post 1860 star variation



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden

Weight: Since the weight of orders can vary considerably depending on the materials of which it is made weight ranges for typical examples are provided

- Grand Cross Badge with brilliants: 39 grams.
- Grand Cross Badge pre 1860: 38.6—43 grams.
- Grand Cross Badge post 1860: 40.5 grams.
- Grand Cross Badge with war decoration and swords: unknown.
- Grand Cross Star with brilliants: 117 grams.
- Grand Cross Bullion Star: 11.8 grams.
- Grand Cross Star pre 1871: 62.8 - 67 grams.
- Grand Cross Star Post 1871: 60.6 -76.8 grams.
- Grand Cross Star with war decoration and swords: unknown.
- The Commander Badge pre 1860: 21.6 - 34.8 grams.
- The Commander Badge Post 1860: 38.9 grams.
- The Knight Badge pre 1860: 19 grams.
- The Knight Badge Post 1860: 19.6 grams.
- The Knight Badge Post 1860 in brilliants: 19.5-20 grams.

Size (typical examples):

- Grand Cross Badge with brilliants: 48 mm in width and 78 mm in height..
- Grand Cross Badge pre 1860: 41 - 50 mm in diameter with a 28 X 40 mm crown.
- Grand Cross Badge post 1860: 41 - 50 mm in diameter with a 28 X 40 mm crown.
- Grand cross Badge with war decoration and swords: 847 mm in diameter with a 30 x 33 mm crow.
- Grand Cross Bullion Star pre 1860: 90-105 mm and larger in diameter.
- Grand Cross Star with brilliants: 89-104 mm in diameter.
- Grand Cross Star pre 1860: 80-105 mm in diameter.
- Grand Cross Star post 1860: 80 mm - 102 mm in diameter.
- Grand Cross Star with war decoration and swords: 96 mm in diameter.
- The Commander Badge pre 1860: 41 - 50 mm in diameter with a crown which is 30 X 33 mm.
 - Commander Badge post 1860: 41 - 50 mm in diameter with a crown which is 30 X 33 mm.
- The Knight Badge pre 1860: 35 - 39 mm in diameter with a 20 - 27 mm crown.
- The Knight Badge post 1860: 35 - 39 mm in diameter with a 20 X-27 mm crown.
- Knight Badge with brilliants: 35.5 mm with a 27.5 mm crown.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Pre 1860 jeweled star

Type of Material:

Badge:

- Brilliants, silver and gold
- Brilliants, pearls, silver and gold
- Brilliants and gold
- Gold and enamel
- Silver and enamel
- Silver gilt and enamel

Star:

- Brilliants and gold
- Brilliants, silver and gold
- Gold and silver bullion on cloth
- Silver, gold and enamel





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Grand Cross Star

- Bullion star
Type I: As previously described (1764-1817) A round star with large flat blade cut rays primarily composed of silver and gold bullion thread (This star was awarded to Napoleon I)



Image attributed to Kituntetese, Agnes Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi

- Type II: (1812-1871) An eight pointed bullion star with large flat blade cut rays



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Metal Star

- Type I: (1812-1871) An eight pointed metal star with large flat blade cut rays. The star is composed of gold, silver and enamel.



Image attributed to Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Grand Cross Star

Metal star

- Type II: A blade cut eight pointed star (1812 - 1871) The star is composed of gold, silver and enamel. This star belonged to Emperor Nicholas I of Russia Circa 1850
- Type III: A diamond cut eight pointed star (1871 - 1917) The star is composed of gold, silver and enamel.
- Type IV: A star with a more rounded profile. (circa pre 1839).



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Grand Cross Star

Metal star

- Type V: The same as Type IV except in diamonds, and emeralds. (Circa 1849). The reverse is in gold. Made by Joseph Biedermann of Vienna.
- Type VI: The same as Type III except with war decoration and swords. This star is supposed to have been issued once in 1918 but there is controversy as to whether this was an official award. Although not confirmed it appears that a grand cross was issued to the Archduke, Field Marshal and Hungarian Palatine Joseph. In the First World War in the year 1914 he was the commander of the VII Corp in the Carpathians; in 1915 he was on the Isonzo front, in 1916 at the Russian front and in the year 1918 again in Italy. Allegedly he received the grand cross of the St. Stephan Order with war decoration and swords on March 18th 1918 from Emperor Karl I. The legend is that during a visit to the Italian front in 1918 on a bridge near Fontana Emperor Karl removed his St Stephan star and saying “for Transylvania” I bestow the Order of St Stephan to you with war decoration and swords. However there is no mention of such an award in the official order documentation. It should also be noted that there was no recorded addition of war decoration and swords to the grand cross badge.
- Type VII: The same as Type I except in diamonds, and pearls. The diamonds covered the star body while the pearls encircled the badge center medallion. (Note: the badge which accompanies this star is not jeweled (pre 1860).
- Type VIII: Same as Type I except with a privately added inscription on the back



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Grand Cross Star

Metal star

- Type IX: The same as Type II bullion star except in diamonds, and emeralds (Circa 1870).



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden

- Type X: This is a very unusual example of the bullion star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the emperors of Austria. This is a pre-1816 example of this badge





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations: Grand Cross Star



- Type X: This is a very unusual example of the star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the emperors of Austria. This is a post-1816 example of this badge





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarischer St. Stephans-Orden)

Variations:

Grand Cross Badge

- Type I: As previously described, circa 1764-1860

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co



- Type II: As previously described issued from 1860-1917. The badge is composed of gold and enamel.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image attributed to Pinterest

Variations: Grand Cross Badge

- Type III: A jeweled version. The grand cross badge encrusted with diamonds and emeralds. In some instances the crown is jeweled and in some not jeweled. In some instances the reverse is also jeweled and in some cases the center medallion is enameled and the rest of the reverse is in plain metal.
- Type IV: The same as Type II except without the crown. This was a cross worn by Empress Maria Theresa (See page 106)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Commander Badge

- Type I: As described above with curved arm ends, 1764-1800. The badge is composed of gold, and enamel.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type II: As described above with curved arm ends and uniface crown attached to the ribbon Circa 1764





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Commander badge

- Type III: As described above but with wave shaped arm ends, circa 1800-1900. The badge is composed of gold, and enamel.



- Type IV: A jeweled version of the Commanders badge. The cross is encrusted with diamonds and emeralds.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Knight badge

- Type I: As described above with curved arm ends, Circa 1764



- Type II: As described above with wavy arm ends Circa 1860. The badge is composed of gold, and enamel.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Variations:

Knight badge

- Type III: A version of the knights badge with an unusually shaped crowns. These are older versions of the badges or badges of foreign manufacture





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Variations:

Knight badge

- Type IV: As described above with narrow elongated and curved arms and a proportionally smaller crown, Circa 1780
- Type V: A jeweled version of the knights badge with diamonds circa 1850. This cross is composed of gold, silver, enamel and diamonds. This cross was awarded to Field Marshall Josef Wenzel Count Radetzky



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image of cross worn by Maria Thereisa attributed to Kituntetsek, Agnes Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi

Variations:

Knight badge

- Type VI: A jeweled version of the 1764 knights badge with diamonds and emeralds and without the crown (Private manufacture, and reported to have been worn by Maria Theresia)

Variations:

- All badges regardless of class may be found with the cross at the top of the crown either straight or bent to the viewers left.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Designer/manufacturer:

- Paul Kobril manufactured the original insignia
- Johann Schachtl of Prague was an early manufacturer
- Ignaz Joseph Schmidt, manufactured the insignia from 1802-1837
- C.F. Rothe of Vienna (manufactured insignia from 1859 to the end of the empire. They also manufactured jeweled versions of the insignia)
- Vincent Mayer & Sons
- Anton Rossi, 1815
- P. Willet, Carlsruhe
- Peck Olivier, Paris
- Hossauer, Berlin
- Emanuell Piote
- Joseph and Anton Biedermann (Manufactured jeweled versions of the insignia)
- Josef Leibold (Manufactured Grand Cross Stars, 1827-1840)
- Andre Alckens made the early embroidered stars
- Joseph Domhart
- Joseph Hollauer

Number Issued:

- There could be 100 holders of the order at any one time; 20 Grand Cross recipients, 30 Commanders, 50 Knights
- From 1764 until 1914 there were 1,670 crosses issued: 837 Grand Crosses, 264 Commander Crosses, and 569 Knight Crosses
- There were 32 Grand Crosses in diamonds, 1 commander in diamonds and 18 or 19 jeweled knight crosses issued from 1764 to 1917. Thus a total of 51 to 52 jeweled awards were issued in total
- The first Grand Master of the Order, Maria Theresa (1764-1765), issued 9 Grand crosses, 6, Commander crosses, and 12 Knight crosses.
- Joseph II was Grand Master in 1765-1790, issued 46 Grand crosses.
- Kaiser Leopold II was Grand Master 1790-1792, issued 5 Grand crosses.
- Kaiser Franz II was Grand Master from 1792-1835.
- Ferdinand I was Grand Master from 1835-1848.
- Franz Joseph I was Grand Master from 1848-1916. During his reign he issued 539 Grand crosses, 68 Commander Crosses, and 287 Knight Crosses
- Nikolaus Horthy de Nagybanya as Regent of Hungary from 1938 to 1944 issued three awards
- For the clergy, only the senior officials of the church hierarchy were considered for the order. The archbishops of Esztergom (Gran) were always a member of the order as a grand cross knight, and they administered the ecclesiastical affairs of the order as a Prelate of the order.

Order of Precedence:

- Grand Cross, Number 3, after the Order of Military Maria Theresia Order, grand cross and before the Military Merit Cross first class
- Commander, Number 10, after the Military Maria Theresia Order, commander and before Military Merit Cross, second class
- Knight, Number 19, after the Franz Joseph Commemoration Cross, first class and before the Order of Leopold, Knight





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Case: Grand Cross Case: A rectangular red case rounded at one end with gold decorations and a representation of the St Stephens crown in gold on the lid. The inner portion of the case is off white velvet and fitted.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Case: Grand Cross in brilliants case: An irregular oblong shaped case with the exterior covered in leather with decorations in gold on the lid. The inner portion of the case is dark velvet and fitted.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Case:

Grand Cross Star Case: An octagonal red simulated leather case with gold border and decorations, with a representation of the St Stephens crown in gold in the center of the lid. The inner portion of the case is faun colored velvet and fitted. The inner portion of the lid is lined in white satin





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Case:

Commander Case Type I: A rectangular red simulated leather case rounded at one end with gold bordering and decorations, with a representation of the St Stephens crown in gold in the center of the lid. The inner portion of the case is off white velvet and fitted while the inner portion of the lid is white satin and often has the maker's logo.



Commander Case Type II (1860): A round dark green leather case with gold lettering on the lid and a chained gold pattern on the margins.





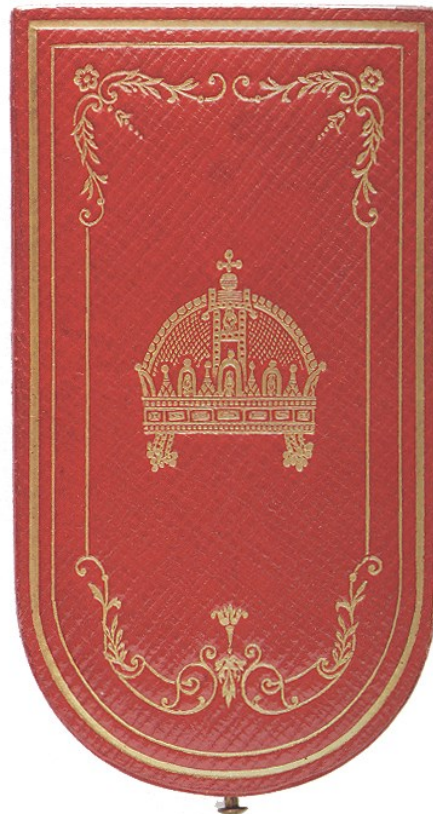
Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarischer St. Stephans-Orden)

Case:

Knight and Kleiner Case: A rectangular red simulated leather case rounded at one end with gold bordering and decorations, with a representation of the St Stephens crown in gold in the center of the lid. The inner portion of the case is light gray or cream velvet and fitted. The inner portion of the lid is white satin and sometimes has the makers logo in gold.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Iovagrend)



Ribbon: The ribbon is silk moiré and is carmine red with wide dark green edge stripes.

- Grand Cordon
- Type I (1764 to 1860) a 95-105 mm wide ribbon with 20 mm wide green edge stripes and a 50 mm red center stripe. It has a bow at the end to which the grand cross badge is attached. It was worn over the right shoulder with the bow resting on the left hip.
- Type II (after 1860) 95-105 mm wide ribbon with 20 mm wide green edge stripes and a 50 mm red center stripe. It has a rosette at the end to which the grand cross badge is attached. It was worn over the right shoulder with the rosette resting on the left hip.



Type I Grand Cordon



Type II Grand Cordon





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Ribbon: Grand Cordon for clergy

- Type III (after 1860) a 95-105 mm wide ribbon with 20 mm wide green edge stripes and a 50 mm red center stripe in the form of a collar to which the grand cross badge is attached.



- Commander Type I ribbon circa 1764 is 58 mm wide with 12 mm edge stripes and a 43 mm center stripe and is worn around the neck as a cravat.
- The Commander Type II ribbon worn after 1860 is 53 mm wide with 13 mm edge stripes with a 27 mm center stripe and is also worn around the neck as a cravat.
- The knight ribbon is 36 - 40 mm wide with a 24 mm center stripe and 8 mm wide edge stripes. The ribbon was originally straight and could be worn in the button hole but was changed to a tri-fold ribbon after 1861



Franz Anton Edler Zeiller wearing the Order of St. Stephan knight badge on straight ribbon





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Ribbon:

- The ribbon for the knight badge prior to 1861 as worn by the only female member of the order could be worn in the form of a bow



Attachments: There are two attachments authorized to be worn on the ribbon of the so called Kleiner badges (see next page). In addition there were in the early period of its issue (Circa 1806) bars that were worn on a ribbon to signify the receipt of the award. The bars were of various sizes and although widely worn were unofficial. See below for an example of such a bar.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Attachments:

- The ribbon attachments to designate the higher grades of the award are a miniature of the Grand Cross star to denote the Grand Cross and a miniature gold St. Stephan crown to denote the commanders badge. The small rectangular ribbon with these attachments was introduced in October 27, 1917



Kleine Badge: The Kleine insignia for the Grand Cross was authorized on March 23, 1908 and for the commander cross on February 23, 1918. The Kleine insignia are:

- Commander (1918): A miniature gold crown worn on the knights badge:
- Grand Cross (1908 - 1918): A miniature 20 mm in diameter Grand Cross star worn on the knights badge
- Grand Cross with war decoration and swords (1918): A miniature Grand Cross star and crossed gold swords above the star (This insignia may not have been issued as the award authenticity is in question)

Image attributed to Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Attachments (continued):

- Grand Cross with war decoration and swords (1918): A miniature Grand Cross star with war decoration and inverted crossed gold swords above the star as reportedly worn in the Hungarian style with swords pommel up. (This insignia may not have been issued as the award authenticity is in question)



Image attributed to Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Miniature: There are miniatures in various sizes and weights which were made by various manufacturers.





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Some Known Recipients:
Grand Cross in Diamonds

- Emperor Joseph II, 1764
- Feldmarschall Ernst Gideon Freiherr von Loudon, 1789
- Cardinal Glacomo Antonelli, 1855
- Count Friedrich de Berg, Russian Field Marshal, Viceroy of Poland, 1870
- Baron Paul Gautsch von Frankenthurn, Austrian Prime Minister, 1911
- Graf Gustav Kalnoky von Korospatak, Imperial Minister, 1895
- Wenzel Prince Kaunitz Rietberg, National Chancellor
- Prince Rudolf Liechtenstein, General of Cavalry, 1908
- Sultan Abdul Medjid, Turkey, 1856
- Marquis Moustier, French Ambassador, 1867
- Nasreddin, Shah of Persia, 1859
- Ivan Feodorovitsch Count Paskiewitsch von Erivan, Prince of Warsaw 1848
- Field Marshall Josef Wenzel Count Radetzky 1854
- Graf Laszlo Szogyeny-Marich von Szolgaegyhazm Minister to Berlin, 1914
- Count Franz Esterhazy, 1764

Grand Cross with War Decoration and Swords

- Archduke Joseph Von Habsburg, 1918 (Possibly an unofficial award)

Grand Cross

- Abbas II Hilmi Bey, Khedive of Egypt
- Nikolay Vladimirovich Adlerberg, Count, Russian General, 1848
- Archduke Albrecht Friedrich Rudolf Dominik von Habsburg, Duke of Teschen
- Albert Prince of Sax Coburg-Gotha, 1843 (Husband to Queen Victoria of England)
- Prince Albert Casimir August of Saxony, Duke of Teschen, Governor of Hungary
- Archduke Alexander Leopold von Habsburg, Regent of Hungary
- Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich of Russia
- Alfonso XIII, King of Spain
- Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
- Gyula Count Andrassy de Csíkszentkirály et Krasznahorka, Hungarian Prime Minister
- Johann Anton Count d'Istria, Russian Minister of the Exterior
- Wenzel Anton, Prince of Kaunitz-Rietberg, Foreign Minister
- Cardinal Glacomo Antonelli, 1850
- Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Governor General of Canada
- Karl August Baron Hardenberg, Prussian Minister
- Johann Anton Count Capo d'Istria, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affair 1818
- Rudolf Von Babsburg, Crown Prince
- Franz Count Barkoczy de Szala, Hungarian Prime Minister and Archbishop of Esztergom, 1764
- Count Karl Josef Batthyány of Németújvár, Austrian Field Marshall
- Prince László Batthyány-Strattmann de Németújvár, Physician
 - Ludwig Count Batthyany, 1764
 - Leopold, Anton Johann Sigismund Josef Korsinus Ferdinand Graf Berchtold von und zu Ungarschitz, Frättling und Püllütz, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister
 - Count Friedrich de Berg, Russian Field Marshal, Viceroy of Poland, 1849





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Some Known Grand Cross Recipients (continued):

- Alexander Berthier, Duke of Neuchatel and Valangin, Prince of Wagram, French Marshal 1810
- Count Friedrich Ferdinand von Beust, Austrian Statesman
- Otto Prince Bismarck, Prussian Chancellor 1864
- Eduard Freiherr Von Bohm-Ermoli, Field Marshal
- Napoléon François Joseph Charles Bonaparte, Duke of Reichstadt, 1811
- Napoleon I Bonaparte, French Emperor, 1810
- Boris, Prince of Bulgaria
- Samuel von Brukenthal, Governor of Transylvania
- Stephan Buria Baron Von Rajecz, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister
- Jean Jacques Regis Cambaceres, Duke of Parma, French Chancellor 1810
- Carol II, King of Romania
- Charles X. King of France, 1825
- Archduke Charles of Austria, Duke of Teschen, Austrian Field Marshall
- Ottokar Czernin, Foreign Minister
- Leopold Claude Etienne Davout, Duke of Austerlitz and Prince of Eggmuhl, French Marshal 1810
- Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico
- Edward VII, King of the United Kingdom
- Franz Count Eszterhaezy von Galantha 1764
- Prince Eitel Friedrich of Prussia
- Ernest Augustus I, King of Hanover
- Archduke Eugen Ferdinand Pius Bernhard Felix Maria von Habsburg, General
- Géza Baron Fejérváry de Komlós-Keresztes, Hungarian Prime Minister
- Ivan Feodorovitch Count Paskiewitsch von Erivan, Prince of Warsaw, 1844
- Ferdinand I, King of Bulgaria
- Ferdinand II, King of the two Sicily's
- Ferdinand III, Grand Duke of Tuscany
- Ferdinand VII King of Spain, 1825
- Ferdinand von Hohenzollern, Romanian Prince, 1890
- Archduke Ferdinand Karl Anton Joseph Johann Stanislaus of Austria-Este, Governor of Lombardy
- Archduke Ferdinand Karl Joseph of Austria-Este, Commander of the Austrian Army
- Francis IV Joseph Charles Ambrose Stanislaus, Duke of Modena, Reggio and Mirandola
- Ferdinand Maximilian von Habsburg, Archduke, Mexican Emperor, 1856
- Franz I, King of Both Sicily's, 1825
- Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria-Este, Prince of Hungary and Bohemia
- Franz Ferdinand Karl Ludwig von Habsburg, Archduke
- Franz Joseph I, Emperor of Austria
- Archduke Franz Karl Joseph von Habsburg
 - George Augustus Frederick, English Regent 1819
 - Frederick III, German Emperor
 - Friedrich VI Danish King 1814





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Some Known Grand Cross Recipients (Continued)

- Karl Friedrich Baron Kuebeck, Chairman of the Court Council, 1852
- Archduke Friedrich von Habsburg, Archduke, Supreme Commander of the Austro Hungarian Army
- Count Cajetan Karl Gaisruck, Cardinal. Archbishop of Malian, 1838
- Prince Gaston, Count of Eu
- Baron Paul Gautsch von Frankenthurn, Austrian Prime Minister, 1906
- George V King of Hanover
- George V King of the United Kingdom
- George Hamilton-Gordon, 4th Earl of Aberdeen, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Mikhail Dmitrievich Gortschakov, Prince, Russian General, 1848
- Andressy Gyula, Count
- Archduke John von Habsburg, Austrian Field Marshall
- Archduke Joseph August Viktor Klemens Maria of Austria, Prince of Hungary and Bohemia, Generaloberst
- Archduke Joseph Karl von Habsburg, Hungarian Regent
- Joseph II von Habsburg, Roman King, 1764
- Heinrich XI, Prince Reuss of Greiz
- Heinrich Hermann Josef Freiherr von Heß, Austrian General
- Miklós Horthy de Nagybanya, Commander of the Austro Hungarian Fleet
- Karl XV, King of Sweden
- Karl Friedrich Count Hatzfeld 1764
- Archduke Karl Ludwig Joseph Maria von Habsburg
- Julius Freiherr Haynau, General, 1850
- Alexander Ivanovitsch Count Ostermann Tolstoj Russian General 1813
- Graf Gustav Kalnoky von Korospatak, Imperial Minister, 1883
- Dr. Ernest von Koerber, Minister President of Austria Hungary
- Herman Kovess von Kovesshaza, Baron, Field Marshal
- Edmund Krieghammer, General of Cavalry, Minister of War, 1898
- Alexander Freiherr von Krobatin, Austrian Field Marshall
- Leopold Count Lazansky von Bukowa, Governor of Moravia 1810
- Leopold Maximilian Joseph Maria Arnulf, Prinz von Bayern
- Archduke Leopold Salvator von Habsburg, Prince of Tuscany
- Prince Rudolf Liechtenstein, General of Cavalry, 1896
- Louis XVIII King of France 1815
- Archduke Louis Joseph Anton Johann, Prince Imperial of Austria, Prince Royal of Hungary and Bohemia and Prince of Tuscany
- Ladislau Lukacs, Hungarian Prime Minister, 1912
- Abdul Madjid I, Sultan of Turkey
- Anton Ludwig August von Mackensen, German Field Marshall
 - Anton Majlath von Szekely, Hungarian Court Councilor, 1841
 - Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim, Baron, Finish Army Commander and Chief
 - Edwin von Manteuffel Prussian Field Marshal, 1872





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Some Known Grand Cross Recipients (Continued)

- Hugo Bernard Maret, Duke of Bassan, French Marshal 1810
- Andre Massena, Duke of Rivoli and Prince of Essling, French Marshal
- Archduke Maximilian Francis von Habsburg, Archbishop, Elector of Cologne
- Klemens Wenzel Lothar Prince Metternich-Winneburg, Ambassador to Prussia, 1805
- Franz George Count Metternich-Winneburg , 1780
- Richard Prince Metternich-Winneburg, Ambassador to Paris, 1867
- Helmuth von Moltke, Prussian Field Marshal, 1872
- Marquis Moustier, French Ambassador, 1861
- Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar, King of Persia
- Count Michael Nadasdy, Finance Minister and President of the Court Chamber, 1827
- Napoleon II, Duke of Reichstadt
- Napoleon III, French Emperor, 1854
- Eugen Napoleon, Prince, Italian Viceroy 1810
- Nasr-Ed-Din, Persia Shah, 1859
- Nikolaus I Czar of Russia, 1826
- Nikolaus II Esterházy, Hungarian Prince
- Nikolas Petrovich-Niegos, King of Montenegro, 1879
- Lorenzo Nina, Cardinal, 1879
- Baron Adam Patachich von Zaieda, Archbishop of Kalocas, 1778
- Nicholas Petrovich Njegos, Montenegrin King, 1879
- Joseph Count O' Donnel, High Chamberlain, 1810
- Baron Bela Orczy, 1890
- Oscar I. King of Sweden, 1850
- Otto Franz Joseph Karl Ludwig Maria, Prince Imperial and Archduke of Austria, Prince Royal of Hungary and Bohemia
- Count Leopold Palffy von Erdod, Feldmarschall and commanding general in Hungary, 1764
- Johann Markgraf von Pallavicini
- Paskieitsch, von Erivan, Prince of Warsaw
- Pedro I Emperor of Brazil
- Gennaro Granito Pignatelli di Belmonte, Cardinal, 1911
- Oskar Potiorek, General, Governor of Bosnia Herzegovina
- Count Alfred Potocki, Governor of Galicia, 1883
- Norbert Purkhart, President of the Reichsrates, 1860
- Josef Wenzel Count Radetzky von Radetz , Field Marshall 1851
- Karl Robert Count Nesselrode, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1815
- Rainer Joseph von Habsburg, Archduke and Viceroy of Lombardy-Venetia
- Albrecht Roon, Count, Minister, General, 1872
- Rudiger, Count, Russian General, 1848
- Rudolf, von Habsburg, Crown Prince of Austria
- Rudolf Johannes Joseph Rainier von Habsburg-Lothringen, Archduke and Prince Imperial of Austria, Prince Royal of Hungary and Bohemia and Archbishop of Oomouc





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Iovagrend)



Some Known Grand Cross Recipients (Continued)

- Richard Graf Scmerling Bienerth
- Felix Prince Von Schwarzenberg, Prime Minister, 1852
- Friedrich Prince Schwarzenberg, Cardinal and the Archbishop of Prague, 1848
- Karl Philipp Prince Schwarzenberg, General of Cavalry and Ambassador to Paris 1810
- Jusztinián György Serédi, Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary
- Baron Leo Skrbensky, Cardinal, Archbishop of Prague, 1910
- Johann Philipp Count Stadion, National and Council Minister 1805
- Karl Baron Stein, Prussian Minister of State 1815
- Charles Maurice Talleyrand Perigord, Prince of Benevent and Duke from Dino, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1815
- Pál Count Teleki de Szék, Hungarian Prime Minister
- Alfred von Tirpitz, German Grand Admiral, 1911
- Tschernyshev, Prince, Russian War Minister, 1848
- Baron Karl Tsori Mecsery, Governor, 1869
- Herzog Wilhelm Nikolaus von Württemberg, General
- Prince Wilhelm of Urach, Count of Württemberg, 2nd Duke of Urach, King of Lithuania
- Klaudius Franz Vaszary, Cardinal
- Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, 1887
- Alexander Count Walewski the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1856
- Joseph Count Wallis
- Wenzel Prince Liechtenstein, Field Marshal, 1765
- Baron Josef Werner, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, 1869
- William I, German Emperor
- William II, German Emperor
- Alfred Windischgraetz, Prince 1848
- Ludwig Wittgenstein, Russian General 1814
- Friedrich Baron Wrangle, Prussian Cavalry General, 1852
- Karl Philipp Prince Wrede, Bavarian Field Marshal, 1833
- Dagobert Count Wurmser, General of Cavalry 1793
- Johann David York, Prussian General 1814
- Friedrich Zweibrucken-Birkenfeld, Prince, Feldmarschall 1760

Award Document: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Archduke Joseph von Habsburg, Circa 1920
Wearing the star of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan with war decoration and swords





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Albrecht Friedrich Rudolf Dominik von Habsburg, Duke of Teschen
Wearing the Grand Cross badge and star of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Emperor Franz I
Wearing the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan as part of the four star cluster group worn by
Emperors of Austria





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Karl Philipp Schwarzenberg
Wearing an early version of the star and grand cordon of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Emperor Karl
Wearing a later version of the star of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Archduke Maximilian Eugen Von Habsburg
Wearing the Kleine of the Grand Cross of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Dr. Robert Ritter Holzknecht von Hort
Wearing the commander badge of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan in 1911





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Empress Maria Theresia
Wearing a jeweled badge of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan on a bow
(See page 106)





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Collar of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

Image attributed to Pinterest





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Date Issued: In the spring of 1764 in Frankfurt on Main Archduke Joseph, son of Emperor Franz I and the Empress Maria Theresia was chosen to be the Roman King for which a great celebration was organized at which the inauguration of the order took place (May 5, 1764) and the first knights were appointed. The order continued to be issued until October 3, 1931 (for services rendered in WWI).

Reason Issued: The Royal Hungarian Knights Order of St. Stephan was established to be the highest civilian merit order of the monarchy: This order was for extraordinary and outstanding merit other than military merit.

Classes or Types: The collar was a special insignia of the order and came in only one class

Interesting Facts:

- The collar was worn with a special order uniform on formal occasions.
- The order statutes and official documents are in Latin.
- The order was the highest award of the Hungarian portion of the empire.
- The Knight had the privilege of meeting with the sovereign as the Grandmaster of the order at anytime without a previous appointment
- After 1884 holders of this award were allowed to place the insignia on their coat of arms
- The Order festival day is St. Stephan's Day or the following Sunday.
- The Order collars were always returned upon the death of the recipient.
- Originally the candidates for the grand cross had to prove descent from four generations of noble ancestors. The Grand Master had the prerogative of dispensing with this requirement. In later times, the ruler often used this right.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



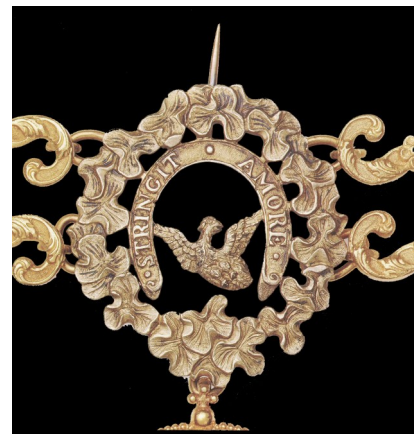
Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Hallmarks:

- The Mark of CF Rothe

Design: On ceremonial occasions the recipients of the grand cross of the Order of St. Stephan wore a golden collar which consists of St. Stephan crowns, connected parallel letters SS with a rosette between the upper portion of the letters, and integrated bedded Monograms MT. The individual components of the collar are connected to one another by small chain rings.

Obverse: A golden collar, which consists of 25 crowns of St. Stephan on either side of which are, 13 connected parallel letters SS with a rosette between the upper portion of the letters (SANCTUS STEPHANUS), and 12 integrated Monograms MT (MARIA THERESIA). The individual components of the collar are connected to one another by small chain rings. The main suspension element is a 47 X 44 mm oval circular wreath composed of golden clouds. Within it is attached a horseshoe shaped ribbon with a golden inscription: **STRINGIT AMORE**, translation, "bound by love". In the midst of this horseshoe is a golden eagle with the head its head raised and turned to the heraldic left. The order insignia is suspended from this component of the collar by a ring.





Orders of Knighthood

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)

(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)

Reverse: Plain unfinished metal

Weight: Unknown

Size (typical examples): Unknown

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer/manufacturer:

- Ignaz Joseph Schmidt and Irma Schmidt (Manufactured insignia in 1836)
- C.F. Rothe of Vienna (manufactured insignia from 1859 to the end of the empire.
- Paul Kobril

Number Issued: 20 at any one time.

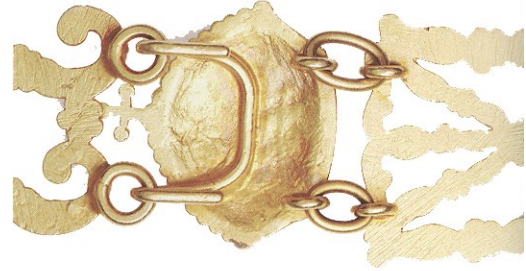


Image Courtesy of Dorotheum

Case: A red leather or cloth case in a indented oval shape. The inner liner is fitted white or black velvet while the inner liner of the case lid is white satin. On the inner lid in the center is the Rothe logo in gold.

Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
cased collar issued in 1918 to
Field Marshal Hermann Kovess von
Kovesshaza



Image Courtesy of Dorotheum



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der europäischen Ritterorden

Ribbon: None

Attachments: None

Miniature: Miniature collars are known to exist

Known Recipients: All recipients of the grand cross of the order (See pages 119-123)





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



**Johann Anton Graf von Pergen, President of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government
wearing the regalia of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan grand cross and collar in 1788**

Image attributed to Barock-Blutzeit der
europäischen Ritterorden





Orders of Knighthood
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan
(Königlich Ungarische Sankt-Stephans-Orden)
(Magyar Királyi Szent István Lovagrend)



Emperor Franz Joseph I wearing the collar of the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan

